

prices, values of old and rare books (including another printed form describing the limits of service in this connection), bibliographical data about books, quotations, biographical reference questions, addresses of persons and organizations, and book review questions. The pattern followed with most of these is to give some general advice about handling such questions, and then to provide a selected bibliography of useful tools for starting the search.

Subsequent parts of the manual concern service to readers, work at the information desk (staffed by, but physically separate from the General Reference Department), work of the clerical assistant and the page, and a final section on routines connected with certain special kinds of materials. Generously illustrated with reproductions of form cards and form sheets, these later chapters of the manual give even an outsider quite a clear picture of the department's work. In spite of their specific application to the work of an individual library, these final sections are worth at least perusal by other reference librarians both for ideas on ways of handling such common problems as interlibrary loans, photographic copying, special indexes, clippings, maps, documents and the like, as well as for presenting an example of a way these activities can be clearly described.

Eight double-column pages of index provide quick access to all topics discussed or described in the manual.

Without more familiarity than this reviewer has with the library this manual is intended to serve, it is impossible for an outsider to point to omissions of coverage, though in view of the careful planning shown throughout the work it seems unlikely that there can be serious ones. The reviewer's attention, in passing, was caught by the absence of reference to Parker Worley's lists of "Current National Bibliographies" which began appearing in the August 1949 issue of the *Library of Congress Journal of Current Acquisitions*. On page 68 where the Heyl list of "Current National Bibliographies" is cited, some mention of the newer list would have seemed appropriate, but this is a minor matter indeed.

Because of its inclusion of material that should prove of interest to reference workers in many libraries, and as an excellent ex-

ample of what a reference staff manual can be, it is a pleasure to call the attention of C.R.L. readers to this new publication.—*Oliver L. Lilley, School of Library Service, Co'umbia University.*

German Publications, 1939-50

Bibliographien zum Deutschen Schrifttum der Jahre 1939-1950, von Hans Widmann. Tübingen, Max Niemeyer, c 1951, 284p. 33.00 DM.

Joris Vorstius, in his lucid and comprehensive *Ergebnisse und Fortschritte der Bibliographie in Deutschland seit dem ersten Weltkrieg* (Beiheft 74 of *Zeitschrift für Biblioteksvesen*, 1948) produced an excellent and adequate summarization of German bibliography and documentation, from both a theoretical and a practical viewpoint. He succeeded in going beyond Georg Schneider in either way, not only quantitatively but also deliberately clearing the ground for detailed descriptive publication later. Only two years after this valiant effort we are presented by Hans Widmann, one of the able men from Tübingen, with just such a record of bibliographical titles. Though there is no reference, in the volume under discussion, to cooperation between Vorstius and Widmann, one can only express the wish that the author of this new, painstaking, difficult and in many ways thankless, albeit so necessary work may have been enabled to benefit by the unpublished manuscript of a *Study of Bibliography and Librarianship in Germany since 1933*, already prepared by his colleague in Berlin (Vorstius, *op. cit.* p.1).

At any rate Widmann builds upon Vorstius's *Ergebnisse* in at least two important ways: his starting point was determined as well as the scope of his compilation, which later leads both Vorstius and Widmann beyond Georg Schneider, who excluded special subject bibliography from his *Handbuch*. Both men thus endorse the aims of inclusiveness, though on a national or cultural basis, applied on a much more comprehensive scale by Bestermann and Bohatta-Hodes (see Vorstius's article on "Petzholdt Redivivus" in *ZfB* 1950:413-37).

Widmann has defined his geographic scope in much the same way as had Vorstius, but the latter limited himself to "bibliographies

in Germany," while Widmann tried to answer the question, "Where can bibliographical evidence be found concerning German publications issued from 1939 to 1950?" (p.16), which allowed him to include much material published outside of Germany.

In the introductory chapter, on the scope of his "Überblick," the author discusses and illustrates the difficulties of his undertaking—questionnaires and personal visits played an important role, publishers rather than libraries often had the answers—and again after the 216 pages of bibliographical listing proper, in a "Rückblick und Umblick," he analyzes once more the plight of the scholar and scientist resulting from the political and social disruption of the period. Views and data as published by the author elsewhere (e.g. in *Libri*, 1950) as well as by other authorities, notably Georg Leyh (*Bericht*: 1947, supplemented in the *Deutschland-Jahrbuch*, 1949), Gustav Hofmann and Heinrich Middendorf (in v. 34, 1950, of the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Bibliotheken*) and by the dean of German bibliographers, Joris Vorstius, in his forementioned *Ergebnisse*, are further elaborated and extended.

Widmann then summarizes the state of German bibliography and succeeds in showing, how on this background of necessity, German librarians and bibliographers have tried and are trying valiantly to do their part in building anew their shattered world. The necessary threads are established for the reader: the present degree of coverage of an area is shown, gaps are indicated, prospects of future publication discussed, whether it be in the complicated framework of the *Deutsche Allgemeine Bibliographie* (p.16-22), especially after 1940, the date of the last *Fünfjahreskatalog*, or in any of the subject fields, such as Germanistics (p.79-86).

A special chapter is devoted to an extensive review of foreign effort and success in covering German publications of the period under consideration. In some areas the Germans have not succeeded as yet in reestablishing systematic bibliography (e.g. *Oriental Studies*, p.88-93, and *Classical Philology*, p.68-74) and foreign publications are serving instead (Dutch and French in the fields referred to).

In bringing Vorstius up to date and complementing him amply the author has produced indeed a well-documented picture of attainments, which, though necessarily un-

even, nevertheless warrant the modest claims of progress made.

Every reader will heartily endorse Widmann's closing thoughts on the value of bibliography in bridging the gulf between specialists as well as between peoples and that it may succeed better than after the first holocaust of our time in closing the gaps. May the author receive much help in response to his introductory Herder-quotation: "lass es nicht beim Tadel, sondern bessere und baue weiter."—*Icko Iben, Urbana, Illinois.*

Copyright and Librarians

Literary Property in the United States. By Ralph R. Shaw. Washington, Scarecrow Press, 1950, v, 277p. \$6.00.

Librarians who have followed the illustrious activities of versatile Ralph Shaw will not be surprised to learn that this present writing is of the same high caliber as his inventing. How he finds time to achieve all of his many accomplishments is something for wonder and amazement. With this treatise, based on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago, Shaw has definitely made a significant contribution to a clearer understanding of the rights of authors from historical, philosophical and practical standpoints.

The book is not a guide for obtaining copyright such as Margaret Nicholson's *A Manual of Copyright Practice* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1945, 255p.), but forms an excellent companion volume to it. The book is not a law treatise for practitioners although such terms as "assign," "license," "prima facie" and "affected with a public interest" are employed without definition. Rather, this work attempts to determine from the American court records just what literary property is; its relation to copyright; what copyright is intended to protect, why, how and for whom; the extent to which these goals have been achieved; and what, if anything, may be done about the situation. An attempt is made to identify all significant problems, stating the extent to which the courts have interpreted each and indicating possible solutions.

Practical minded authors who are experienced with the procedure of the Copyright Office may register a minor objection to Shaw's method of presenting one vital aspect