

# Review Articles

## Farmington Plan

*Farmington Plan Handbook.* By Edwin E. Williams. Association of Research Libraries, 1953. 170 pp. \$2.50. Orders should be addressed to Office of the Executive Secretary, ARL, Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Indiana.)

If this were nothing more than a handbook of Farmington Plan practice, it would have even greater utility than the modest disclaimer in the Introduction which suggests that it "may be of some use to Farmington Plan dealers and their advisers, to the sixty-two participating libraries, to those who wish to locate recent foreign books in order to borrow them or obtain photographic copies, and to others who are interested in library cooperation and resources for research."

For handbook purposes Mr. Williams has provided a concise initial chapter on "What The Plan Is and How It Works" and then in the latter half of the booklet a succession of practical cross indexes which permit the user to work easily from several approaches. There is a list of the ninety-nine countries whose publications are procured under the Plan with indication of the procurement agent or library, a list of the participating libraries with report of the subject fields for which each is responsible, a fairly detailed alphabetical subject index that indicates the library responsible for each subject, and then a classified (L.C.) cross index.

In view of the complexity of the subject allocations and the considerable number of countries and libraries that are involved, it seemed obvious that after six years of operation it was worth while to publish these portions of the *Handbook* if only for the benefit of the libraries receiving books and the dealers sending them.

During the first five years of operation (1948-1952) the Plan brought in over 50,000 volumes, so already a large body of material that "might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in the United States" has been added to the country's collections. Since under the terms of the Plan we can assume that much of this material might not otherwise be available here, and even though indi-

vidual titles are supposed to be listed promptly in the National Union Catalogue, this *Handbook* provides an important resources guide for all libraries in the country. Although responsibility for a subject under the Plan does not necessarily mean that the particular library has a major collection in the subject field, certainly this is a tendency. Thus scholars and reference librarians, as well as acquisitions librarians, will find the *Handbook* a useful bibliographical tool.

Happily, however, Mr. Williams has gone beyond the handbook stage and provided a historical and critical report on the Plan that is both impressive and readable, and also a full bibliography. This was well worth doing because the Farmington Plan is a truly monumental program, conceived in bold and generous terms, and because much of the source material is not easily accessible.

This portion of the *Handbook* has been prepared with the documentary skill and thoroughness, as well as the candor, that we expect of Mr. Williams, who has had the special advantage of working closely with the Plan almost since its inception. If the *Handbook* contains any of the small errors that are the badge of a scholarly review, this reviewer found none and would consider it supererogatory to list them anyway. If effective criticism of the Plan or research into it are stimulated on the basis of Mr. Williams' shrewd comments, he will consider his work well repaid. Even without such important projections, he has performed here an important service to scholarship as well as a good job of scholarship.—Robert Vosper, *University of Kansas Library.*

## Lamont Library Catalog

*Catalogue of the Lamont Library, Harvard College.* Prepared by Philip J. McNiff and members of the Library Staff. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1953 x, 562 pp.

The *Catalogue of the Lamont Library* reflects accurately the main purpose of the Lamont Library which is to provide "... a live, working collection of books selected to serve the required and recommended reading

needs of Harvard undergraduates in addition to a good general collection of books that it makes readily available."

The *Catalogue* contains more than 39,000 titles arranged in classified form by the Lamont Library classification scheme. It is provided with a brief table of contents in which the structure of the classification scheme is clearly outlined, an author index, and a subject index. Individual entries are brief but adequate. The general format is simple, unpretentious and attractive. Altogether, from a physical point of view this book appears to meet the criteria for a good printed catalog.

Philip J. McNiff, Lamont Librarian, prepared the *Catalogue* with the assistance of Roland H. Moody and William B. Ernst, Jr. of the Lamont staff, and George W. Cottrell, Jr., Editor of the Harvard University Library. Its preparation was made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

As McNiff emphasizes in his introductory statement this is the catalog of a working collection; it does not attempt to represent an ideal book collection for a liberal arts college. Consequently, it would be impertinent to criticize or appraise this catalog in the light of the criteria one might apply to the ideal or theoretical type of book best exemplified by the Shaw<sup>1</sup> list.

As a working list of books for undergraduates in an eminent liberal arts college, the *Catalogue* automatically achieves a place of importance for college and university librarians. It represents the experience of an excellent library staff working in conjunction with a first rate liberal arts faculty in the determination of book selection policy and the actual selection of books. Added to this condition has been the observation of the use made, of the collection so selected, by Harvard undergraduates.

The method of book selection for the Lamont collection is described in some detail in an article entitled "The Selection of Books for Lamont," by Edwin E. Williams.<sup>2</sup> The subsequent refinement of the original lists and the limitations and general coverage of the present *Catalogue* are briefly but simply set forth in the introduction to the *Catalogue*.

Librarians will find much to study and

<sup>1</sup> Shaw, Charles B. *A List of Books for College Libraries*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1931.

<sup>2</sup> *Harvard Library Bulletin*, 3:386-94, Autumn, 1949.

perhaps to emulate in the selection, organization and presentation of this list. Despite its limitations, they will find the *catalogue* a highly suggestive and useful guide in evaluating their collections. In the arrangement of the titles and forms of entry there will be found useful suggestions; in the simple format and economical method of production, encouragement for additional projects of this sort.—*Morris A. Gelfand, Queens College Library.*

## Problems in Psychology

*Professional Problems in Psychology*. By Robert S. Daniel and C. M. Louttit. New York, Prentice-Hall, 1953. 416 pp. \$5.50.

Undoubtedly, a more significant title for this book might have been "A Guide to the Literature of Psychology," since the chief professional problems it takes up are those of library research, manuscript preparation, outlets for publication, etc. In addition, the authors have included material intended to help the student in psychology acquire professional perspective, around which the entire book centers.

There has not been a guide to the literature of psychology since Louttit in 1932 published his *Handbook of Psychological Literature*, of which *Professional Problems* is partly a revision and expansion. Louttit (University of Illinois) is editor of *Psychological Abstracts*, and Daniel teaches a course in Studies in Professional Problems at the University of Missouri. Their successful collaboration has resulted in a handy little reference volume that ranges from such basic information as where to put the period when your sentence ends in parentheses to membership requirements for the American Psychological Association.

The book proper is divided into four parts. The first of these orients the reader in the growth of psychology as a profession. The fourth and final part reinforces the emphasis on "professionalization" and discusses fields of training, job opportunities, legal, ethical, and public relations, and professional organizations.

Parts 2 and 3, the major portion of the book, comprise the guide to psychological literature. The authors investigate the important sources of information and how to