

Review Articles

Who's Who in Library Service

Who's Who in Library Service. Third edition. A Biographical Directory of Professional Librarians of the United States and Canada. Dorothy Ethlyn Cole, editor. Prepared under the direction of the Council on *Who's Who in Library Service* for the School of Library Service, Columbia University. New York, The Grolier Society, 1955. 546p. \$6.00.

At long last the third edition of *Who's Who in Library Service* has made its appearance, the result of the cooperative effort of many volunteers. Its organization, plans and policies were under the direction of the Council on *Who's Who in Library Service* of which Carl M. White was chairman and Lee Ash co-chairman, and due to the generosity of the H. W. Wilson Company, Miss Dorothy Ethlyn Cole was granted part-time leave to serve as editor and chairman of the Committee on Editorial Policies. The greater part of the actual labor was done by numerous volunteers from the New York area who processed the thousands of returned questionnaires and, quite properly, the names of eight faithful workers who did an exceptional number of these questionnaires are listed in the front of the volume. After considerable investigation the Grolier Society was chosen as publisher and the Science Press in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, prepared the final copy for reproduction by the photo-offset process.

This edition includes sketches for more than 11,000 librarians from the United States and Canada, compared with 5764 in the first edition (1933), and 8869 in the second (1943). According to the introduction the following categories are included:

1) Professional librarians, defined as persons holding degrees from accredited library schools, or others classified as professional in libraries. (It was the responsibility of the Committee on Eligibility to evaluate the records of these latter); 2) Persons active in such closely related fields as library school teaching, bibliographical and editorial work; 3) Librarians who retired during the past year; 4) Others who have retired, but who are still well known in the profession through

writing, teaching, work in professional associations, or consultant service; 5) Foreign librarians employed in agencies of an international character who are in the United States on a more or less permanent basis.

The sketches are written in as concise a form as possible, using abbreviations and omitting non-professional information (home addresses are given only for persons who have retired or who are employed in libraries outside of the United States). Usually given is full name, place and date of birth (if given by biographee), education, i.e., college, graduate work, and library school; honors, publications, memberships, and positions held.

Facts have been taken from the questionnaires without further checking with other sources and for the most part seem quite accurate, although a few errors in transcribing have been noted. Unfortunately, the stringent budget did not permit follow-ups for persons who did not return the questionnaires. While it is possible that some of these may not wish to have been included, it would seem highly desirable that a certain amount of follow-up be provided when another edition is to be prepared.

A few minor deficiencies have shown up as the volume has been used; e.g. 1) present position is given in caps at the end of the sketch which is usually an excellent arrangement, but in the case of persons who have held several positions in the same library the name of the library is given only with the first position and sometimes it is necessary to check back quite carefully to discover the name of the institution at which one is director, head, technical processes, acquisition librarian, etc.; 2) date of retirement is not indicated so that, frequently, part-time jobs held after retirement are given more prominence than the career position of an individual; 3) in some cases abbreviations used for institutions with lack of place-names make for ambiguity.

In spite of these few criticisms the volume is most welcome and will be heavily used. It is to be hoped that some adequate arrangement can be made for bringing out revisions at regular intervals.—*Constance M. Winchell, Columbia University Libraries.*