

United States out of a total of over 13,000 libraries. Of bookseller subscribers we have today 153, from a total of approximately 2,000 rare booksellers, antiquarian dealers, secondhand shops and book scouts.

To this reviewer, this came as a bit of a shock. Therefore these remarks may serve as a memo as well as a review of the journal and its contents for readers of CRL, who may not have seen copies of *The American Book Collector*, or who may have neglected to order it for their libraries. Surely there are hundreds of librarians concerned with topics other than statistics, administration and technical studies who would find this periodical with its bookish essays, informative articles and news items of more than casual interest. The library's clientele will find that the publication has considerable appeal for them too.

One of the major contributions published during 1954-55 was the work by George Chapman Singer entitled "Marketing Methods and Channels of Distribution in the Rare Book Trade." Mr. Singer treats the many aspects of buying and selling rare books at auction and through the antiquarian shops, and prepared the study as a thesis in marketing at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Division.

Although this investigation may not offer new information for our librarians who are rare book specialists, this reviewer believes that many of the younger members of the profession, particularly those who have had little experience with special collections and rare books, will find much useful information in Mr. Singer's six exploratory chapters. The series is an excellent supplement to Storm and Peckham's *Invitation to Book Collecting* and Carter's *Taste and Technique of Book Collecting*, which have appeared in recent years.

The subjects treated in recent issues of *The American Book Collector* serve to indicate the scope of the journal: "Collecting Science Fiction," "Hans Christian Anderson, 1805-1955," "Bibliographical Essay on Frederick Rolfe (Baron Corvo)" and "News and Reviews of Private Presses." There have been brief articles on "Australiana," "Jack London as a Collectible Author," "Eleven Ways to Spot a Forgery," "Benjamin Franklin: American Book Collector, 1706-1956," and numerous others.

A regular feature of the magazine is the inclusion of reprints of some lesser known but historically important contributions, such as Thomas A. Jones's *J. Wilkes Booth* (Chicago, 1893) and *The California Journal of William Perkins, 1849-1852*, which appeared serially with appropriate illustrations. In each issue there are regular columns on Lincolniana, Autographs, Auction Sales, and Western Roundup, as well as book reviews and classified advertising. The forty-page Summer, 1956, issue contained the First Annual Collector's Directory and a provocative article on "American Book Burnings" by Walter Hart Blumenthal, author of *Bookmen's Bedlam*.

Librarians who respect the field of books and want to aid in the support of a publication which provides them with authoritative, well-written articles while keeping them informed about sales, collectors and bibliographical studies will understand why *The American Book Collector* deserves a larger list of subscribers in the profession.—*H. Richard Archer, R. R. Donnelley and Sons Co.*

## Concepts of Historiography

*Man on His Past: The Study of the History of Historical Scholarship.* By Herbert Butterfield. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1955. 238p. \$4.50.

*Essays in the History of Ideas.* By Arthur O. Lovejoy. New York: George Braziller, 1955. 359p. \$3.75.

Those noisy proponents of the doctrine that the formal training of librarians must "get back to the book"—by which they usually mean a return to bibliomania or some other manifestation of book madness—would do well to read with care these penetrating lectures presented at the Queen's University in Belfast by the distinguished Cambridge historian, Herbert Butterfield. *Man on His Past*, though it draws its argument from the field of historiography, specifically the historiography of the nineteenth century, is fundamentally a protest against that form of scholarship which is a superficial "spoon-feeding . . . with secondhand knowledge." Butterfield is in constant outcry against a

scholarship which produced nothing but "books about books," a scholarship that resolves itself into a mere compendium, or sequence of compendia, "something like a chronological series of encyclopaedia-articles on individual historians, with a résumé of their careers and achievements (and a grouping into 'schools' or 'movements') after the manner of old-fashioned textbooks in the history of literature."

Butterfield reminds us that the study of historiography is more than a mere recapitulation of the ideas of individual thinkers, however important and influential they may have been. He sees it as comprising "the story of the establishment of institutions, the policies of governments and teaching bodies, and the results of cooperative endeavor." The history of science, he says, "could never be adequately reconstructed by a student who confined his attention to the few men of supreme genius. We should produce a misleading diagram of the whole course of things if we merely drew direct lines from one of these mighty peaks to another. The great books are undoubtedly preferable to the reader, more serviceable in education, and more enriching to the mind; but if we restrict ourselves to these, the result is likely to be a rope of sand." The author illustrates his thesis by asserting that the contribution of Newton cannot be fully comprehended unless the scholar is aware of the state of science before Newton came to grips with physical phenomena, and follows the history of speculation concerning gravitation—not excluding the mistakes and blunders—"down to the moment when the famous apple fell."

Historiography, then, is more than a branch of the history of thought, for Butterfield equates historical thinking with the scientific method. He is in accord with the Gottingen scholars of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with Ranke, and Acton, in insisting upon the "interconnectedness" of events. The problems of historiography are closely connected with the problems of life itself; they treat of the ways in which human beings take their vicissitudes on this earth, and a people that lives without any knowledge of its past, without any serious attempt to organize its collective memory, could hardly be expected to make much progress toward advancing its culture. Repeat-

edly, one has observed, especially in politics, how greatly influenced are men's attitudes by their interpretation of past events.

In Butterfield's penetrating analysis of this larger concept of historiography, a concept that might well be magnified to include all retrospective scholarship, he focuses attention upon the German historical scholar at the University of Gottingen, the work of Leopold van Ranke, and of Lord Acton. This series of lectures concludes with the reconstruction of an historical episode—the history of the inquiry into the origins of the Seven Years War. The purpose of this essay is to illustrate the interconnectedness of events by portraying the scholarship that lies behind historical narrative, and to expose the pitfalls that may beset the student and reader of history. The final essay, which is not a part of the lecture sequence, traces the historiography of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, with particular attention to the work of Lord Acton and the problems involved in creating an objective narrative.

Not since the publication of R. G. Collingwood's *The Idea of History*, has this reviewer seen so clear and intelligent an analysis of the problem of historical scholarship. But here, even more than in the writing of Collingwood, is the foundation of all scholarship, a philosophy that unites the scientific and the humanistic in an harmonious whole, a credo for those who believe in the unity of all knowledge.

Professor Arthur O. Lovejoy reaches the same conclusions respecting the unity of scholarship, through his examination of the historiography of ideas as revealed in the realm of letters. With illustrations drawn from the history of literature, he argues for the need of closer and wider *liaison*, of more inter-disciplinary cross-fertilization, within the circle of all scholarship. The method of the student of the history of ideas is, then, he insists, one of both isolation and synthesis. The idea must be isolated for intensive study, but there must be brought together in that study material from all the provinces into which that idea has penetrated. To achieve this goal he insists upon greater collaboration among all scholars, but particularly, collaboration of scholars in the fields of the sciences with those in the humanities. Thus, Lovejoy reaffirms the unity of all

knowledge in the interdependence of scholarship, and finds the presence and influence of the same presuppositions or other operative ideas in very diverse regions of thought and in different periods. This persistence in the identity of an idea-complex was also affirmed in his *The Great Chain of Being* (1936) and *Primitivism and Related Ideas in Antiquity* (1935).

The remainder of the volume under review is comprised of some fifteen essays dealing with a wide variety of topics in the history of literature, treated from this synthetic point of view. This collection of Lovejoy's was brought together to honor him on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the History of Ideas Club at Johns Hopkins University. One wishes that the selection might have exhibited more of that unity for which the author is so ardent, and so properly, an exponent. Thus the title of the book is somewhat misleading, and the reader lays the book aside with the wish that the initial chapter on the historiography of ideas had been expanded to the length of the entire work.

There is much in both the Butterfield and Lovejoy studies for contemplation by those who are concerned with education for librarianship, and especially by those who are disturbed by the direction which education for librarianship is taking today. If librarianship is to become an increasingly important link in the chain of total communication, it logically follows that an investigation into the transmission of ideas is a major concern of education for librarianship. To the librarian, the social role which ideas, particularly ideas which have emerged from a wide variety of disciplines, have played in the growth of our society and the development of our culture is of basic importance. Ideas are the librarian's true stock-in-trade, and books, as the physical embodiment of ideas, are only incidental.

It is toward a better understanding of the questions raised by both Butterfield and Lovejoy that an important segment of research in librarianship should be directed, for the historiography of ideas may well provide much of the substance from which the education of all future librarians is to be derived.—*J. H. Shera, Western Reserve University, School of Library Science.*

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