

Selected Reference Books of 1963-1964

BY EUGENE P. SHEEHY

INTRODUCTION

THIS ARTICLE continues the semi-annual series¹ originally edited by Constance M. Winchell. Though it appears under a by-line the list is actually a project of the reference department of the Columbia University libraries, and notes are signed with the initials of individual staff members.²

Since the purpose of the list is to present a selection of recent scholarly and foreign works of interest to reference workers in university libraries it does not pretend to be either well-balanced or comprehensive. Code numbers (such as A11, 1A26, 2S22) have been used to refer to titles in the *Guide*³ and its supplements.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliografía boliviana. 1962- . Cochabamba: Los Amigos del Libro (Casilla 450), 1963- . Annual. \$2.

Slight as it may seem, here is at least a beginning for a Bolivian national bibliography. Planned as an annual, and published by Werner Guttentag, proprietor of "Los Amigos del Libro" bookstore in Cochabamba, the 1962 volume lists 192 books and pamphlets published in Bolivia or written by Bolivian authors. Arrangement is by author, with indexes by title, broad subject, and publisher. Entries include full biblio-

¹ *CRL*, January and July issues starting January, 1952.

² Eizenija Bergman, Eleanor Buist, Rita Keckeissen, Elizabeth J. Rumics, Charlotte Smith, Susan Thompson, John Neal Waddell.

³ Constance M. Winchell, *Guide to Reference Books* (7th ed.; Chicago: ALA, 1951); *Supplement* (Chicago: ALA, 1954); *Second Supplement* (Chicago: ALA, 1956); *Third Supplement* (Chicago: ALA, 1960); *Fourth Supplement* (Chicago: ALA, 1963).

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graphical information, plus Dewey class number, but not price.—E.S.

Libros en venta en Hispanoamérica y España. Un servicio informativo preparado bajo la dirección de Mary C. Turner. New York: Bowker, 1964. 1891p. \$25.

After several years of preparation, the Bowker Company has produced a major new reference tool—an author-title-subject listing of Spanish-language books in print in twenty-one countries, including Spain, the United States, and the principal nations of Central and South America, with the exception, of course, of Brazil. The only waiving of the Spanish language requirement is in the case of textbooks destined to teach other languages to Spanish-speakers. As the editor makes clear, there are inconsistencies, omissions, and errors in the bibliographical citations, which reflect the vagaries of the information sources: almost nine hundred publishers' catalogs. These very defects, however, point up our debt to Miss Turner for putting order into this vast and chaotic field. There are almost eighty-eight thousand entries under "Titles," which is the largest section, since authors' names were not always given in the catalogs, and no subject headings are assigned to belles-lettres. Indexing follows the *Books in Print* pattern, with the subject section arranged by the Dewey system. Information is as of the last four months of 1963. Publishers' addresses and an alphabetical subject heading list are given at the end. *Libros en venta* is a conscientious and praiseworthy realization of its intention: to make known which books exist in Spanish, where they can be bought, and at what

price. It is hoped that new editions of the work can be published on a regular basis.—S.T.

National Bibliography of Indian Literature, 1901-1953. General editors: B.S. Kesavan [and] V. Y. Kulkarni. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi [1962-]. v.1- .

Contents: v.1. Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati. 797p. Rs. 50.

When complete in four volumes (v.2-4, Hindi-Urdu, in process), this should serve as a convenient and useful record, for the fields covered, of Indian imprints for the first half of this century. The introduction describes criteria for selection and inclusion (roughly, books in the humanities and social sciences, including fiction, biography and travel), and lists compilers of the fifteen language sections. Arranged by author under subjects within language divisions, each entry supplies pagination, full imprint, and price. The English section is restricted to books in English by Indian authors or published in India. A single author-title index serves the four language sections.—E.J.R.

LIBRARIES

Ghose, Sailen. *Archives in India; History and Assets.* Calcutta: Firma K. L. Mukhopadhyay, 1963. 358p. Rs. 20.

Although the author's primary aim was to present a history (as found in Part I) of the origin and development of archival institutions in India plus a "blue-print" for future planning, it is the second part, "Archival Assets," which will be of greatest interest from a reference point of view. This section describes national, state, and a few representative private archives, giving a brief history of the archive, notes on the physical plant, the type and extent of records available, existing guides or indexes to the collections, research facilities, etc. While the work is welcome as a pioneer effort, the whole would have benefited from careful editing and tightening, as well as from more uniform presentation of the directory-type information in the second section. The bibliography and List of Selections from Records are especially disappointing, most

of the entries being woefully inadequate.—E.S.

Répertoire des bibliothèques d'étude et organismes de documentation. (3 parts in 1.v.) Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1963. 1233p. 82 n.f.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1950-51 in three volumes, under the sponsorship of UNESCO. Prepared under French governmental auspices, the present volume is based on entirely new research. It describes a total of 2382 research libraries and documentation centers in France (an increase of 748 over the first edition), but omits public library information formerly included. There is no restriction as to subject. Arrangement is geographic: first Paris and its surrounding area, then the communes of France; an index leads to location by département, by individual name or abbreviation, or by subject. The editors claim neither exhaustiveness nor perfect accuracy, since the information comes from questionnaires more or less satisfactorily completed. The result, however, is an impressive factual compilation.—S.T.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

Bulgarska akademiia na naukite, Sofia. *Kratka bulgarska entsiklopediia.* Sofia: Bulgarska akademiia na naukite, 1963- . v.1- . (In progress)

Contents: v.1, A-Gera.

To be in five volumes, the new Bulgarian encyclopedia (the first published since a one-volume work of 1936) is intended as a general encyclopedia for the general reader, although a significant part will be devoted to Bulgaria and its achievement under Communism. The set is to consist of about twenty-seven thousand articles, plus illustrative material which will occupy approximately 15 per cent of the total space. The articles are unsigned, and usually without bibliographies. The peculiarity of some of the entries (*e.g.*, "Bor'ba za sushchestvuvane") is mitigated somewhat by the numerous "see also" references which appear as italicized words in the body of the article. The encyclopedia includes numerous biographical sketches of both living and deceased persons.—E.Be.

PERIODICALS

Index to Jewish Periodicals. v.1, no.1- , June/Aug. 1963- . Cleveland (16620 Lomond Blvd.): 1963- . Quarterly, with annual cumulation. \$36 per yr.

Subtitled "An author and subject index to selected American and Anglo Jewish journals of general and scholarly Jewish interest," this new publication indexes forty-six periodicals, only a few of which are included in other standard indexes. Indexing of the magazines is complete, not selective. The issues are mimeographed; entries conform to the pattern of the Wilson indexes; and "see" and "see also" references are freely used. The editors (three librarians, according to a publicity leaflet) promise an annual cumulation.—E.S.

Repertorio analitico della stampa italiana; quotidiani e periodici, 1964- . Milano: Messaggerie italiane, 1964- . I3,500.

Because of the irregular publication schedule (none since 1960?) of the *Annuario della stampa italiana* (Guide E43, Supplement 2E13), it is helpful to have a second directory of the current Italian press. Some eight thousand periodicals are here listed, arranged by modified Dewey groupings divided into eighty-nine subdivisions; a title index follows. Unfortunately, information supplied for individual titles is too often meager, with nothing beyond frequency and city of publication for a majority of the items. Street addresses are rarely given except for those journals running advertisements in the directory, and prices appear inconveniently only in the title index. Newspapers are listed in the section on generalities under the heading "Dailies," totaling approximately a hundred. There is a final list of several hundred titles for which it was presumably impossible to secure any publishing information at all. Introduction and table of contents are given in Italian, English, French, German, and Spanish.—J.N.W.

World List of Scientific Periodicals Published in the Years 1900-1960. 4th ed. Ed. by Peter Brown and George Burder Stratton. London: Butterworths, 1963- . v.1- . (In progress). \$100 the set. Contents: v.1, A-E.

The first volume of this welcome new edition (to be in three volumes), reveals that the general plan of the work follows closely that of the preceding edition (*Supplement 1N8*). A number of titles of dubious scientific or technical value listed in the third edition have been dropped, but the total number of titles has been increased from fifty thousand to approximately sixty thousand. Some filing rules have been changed so that they now follow general standards more closely. The unhappy news contained in the preface is the announcement that there are no plans for any further revisions, but it is hoped that annual supplements to be issued by the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* may serve as substitutes.—J.N.W.

RELIGION

Bavel, Tarsicius J. van. *Répertoire bibliographique de Saint Augustin, 1950-1960*. Steenbrugis: in Abbatia Sancti Petri, 1963. 991p. (Instrumenta Patristica 3).

This extensive work is a compilation, enlarged and corrected, of the bibliographies carried in the journal *Augustiniana* for the years noted. With the aim of making it as complete as possible for Augustinian studies proper, the editor has included books, dissertations, and articles in periodicals, collections and *Festschriften*. For tangential matters such complete coverage was not attempted. A detailed table of contents shows a classification scheme of four main sections, each with many subdivisions. Within a subject, entries are said to be listed chronologically except where a more appropriate order is dictated by the material—but spot-checking shows little consistency in this regard. Complete bibliographical information and descriptive annotations are given, and level of scholarship is indicated. Cross references are abundant; critical reviews are sometimes cited. Indexes of authors, subjects and names mentioned in the studies are appended.—R.K.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Mossé, Robert. *Bibliographie d'économie politique, 1945-1960; histoire des doctrines, statistique et économétrie, géographie économique, économie rurale*,

économie financière, travail, sociologie, démographie. Paris: Sirey [1963]. 124p. 16 n.f.

Offered as a partial supplement to Grandin (*Guide L5*) and as a complement to *Documentation économique (Guide L333)*, this volume provides a list of French books on political economy (in the broad sense, as the subtitle indicates), together with references to critical reviews of these works appearing in three outstanding French journals in the field. A classed arrangement is used, and there are separate author and subject indexes. Supplements are planned.—E.S.

Tomkins, Dorothy Louise (Campbell) Culver. *The Offender; a Bibliography.* Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, 1963. 268p. \$7.50.

This work "is concerned with the offender, who he is, what has contributed to his becoming an offender, and various methods of studying him" and includes materials from "psychiatry, psychology, medicine, education, sociology, social welfare, and criminology." (Pref.) It employs a classed arrangement under the three broad categories described, appropriately subdivided. Coverage starts with 1937 and a few items are as late as 1962. Full bibliographical information is given for each entry and often a descriptive annotation is added. Many forms of material are included: journal articles, books, parts of books, doctoral and masters' theses, government publications, research bureau reports, etc. An author and subject index facilitates use of the book, particularly since one entry for an item is the rule followed in the body of the work.—R.K.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Secretariat. *Social Scientists Specializing in African Studies.* Paris: Mouton, 1963. 375p. \$11.50.

A useful addition to the growing ranks of reference books in the field of African studies, this well printed volume is also a welcome addition to the all-too-small number of international directories of scholars. The aim of the compilers was "to achieve as large a coverage as possible," so that "social

sciences" have been interpreted broadly and "Africa" is considered to include not only the whole continent, but also adjacent islands. The 2072 names of scientists are arranged in one alphabet, each with an autobiographical paragraph containing the usual "who's who" information. There are indexes by subjects and areas of specialization, and by country of origin. The University of Paris' École Pratique des Hautes Études plans to keep the information up to date by a card index.—S.T.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Bibliography of Social Science Periodicals and Monograph Series: Hungary, 1947-62.* (Foreign Social Science Bibliographies, Series P-92, no. 13) Washington: 1964. 137p. 70¢.

Covering fifteen countries thus far, this series provides a useful, inexpensive bibliographic guide to certain materials in the social sciences "published in Communist bloc and other countries using so-called 'difficult' languages." (Pref.) Representative of the series, *Hungary* is a classed listing under discipline or field (e.g., economics, law, linguistics, statistics) of 114 periodicals and 644 monographs in series which appeared in Hungary during the past fifteen years. Concisely presented, partly through use of symbols, information for periodicals includes: issuing agency (in Hungarian and English) and place, frequency, language of articles; indication of summaries, notices of books and professional activities; a sample of recent representative article titles; and note of Library of Congress holdings. For monographs, series number and paging is also given, plus a brief abstract of the contents. There are indexes of subjects, titles and authors.—E.J.R.

EDUCATION

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. *International Guide to Education Documentation, 1955-1960.* Paris: UNESCO, 1963. 700p. \$20; paper \$17.50.

Interpreting "documentation" in the broadest sense to include not only all types of published materials but also institutions and agencies where information may be

found and the methods employed in disseminating it, the *Guide* is "an attempt to provide a framework for future work and collaboration" (Introd.) in the field of education. As a bibliography of bibliographies of contemporary literature in the field and a handbook to sources of documentation, it gives wide coverage within admitted limits: of two hundred educational systems, those of only ninety-five countries and territories are treated. Notable omissions are Italy, Canada, and China. The major part of the volume consists of national chapters, alphabetically arranged, all following a definite pattern. Educational documentation centers, where they exist, are listed first, followed by reference works, educational systems, instructional materials, etc. There is a short chapter listing international sources and organizations. A subject approach is provided through the excellent index. If the plan of issuing an edition every five years is realized, the value to educationists should be immeasurable.—C.S.

DICTIONARIES

Lewanski, Richard C. *A Bibliography of Slavic Dictionaries*. New York: New York Public Library, 1959-63. 3v. v.1, \$2; v.2, \$5; v.3, \$5.50.

Contents: v.1, Polish; v.2, Belorussian, Bulgarian, Czech, Kashubian, Lusatian, Old Church Slavic, Macedonian, Polabian, Serbocroatian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian; v.3, Russian.

For v.1, issued in 1959 as *A Bibliography of Polish Dictionaries*, see *Supplement* 4M88.

This is a pioneer effort toward a comprehensive bibliography of Slavic dictionaries and glossaries. Entries are not annotated except to indicate languages covered, but clear arrangement of the work as a whole, and good indexing enhance the reference value. Subject indexes for each of the languages permit identification of glossaries and dictionaries of special terms. There are also author and language indexes. The Russian volume lists the numerous bilingual dictionaries of the Soviet Union, as well as many types of monolingual dictionaries, with the exception of the biographical and biobibliographical dictionaries compre-

hensively covered by Kaufman (*Supplement* 3S40). These types are included in volume two.—E.B.

Sadnik, Linda and Aitzetmüller, Rudolf. *Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der slavischen Sprachen*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1963- . Lfg. 1- . DM. 2,40 per Lfg.

For this comparative dictionary of Slavic languages the authors provide an alphabetic key, arranged in twenty-seven language groups, to the main etymological section. The key is to appear at the completion of each letter in order to facilitate use of the dictionary prior to the final indexing. Lfg. 1 contains a list of abbreviations for the literature cited. The dictionary is oriented toward advanced linguistic study.—E.B.

Shanskii, Nikolai Maksimovich. *Etimologičeskii slovar' russkogo iazyka*. [Red.kolegiia V. V. Vinogradov i dr.] Moskva: Izd-vo Moskovskogo Universiteta, 1963- .

Contents: Tom I, Vypusk 1, A.

Issued under the auspices of Moscow University's Faculty of Philology, this etymological dictionary gives brief descriptions of word derivation, followed by equivalents in Ukrainian, Belorussian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian and Serbocroatian. The dictionary is planned in eight volumes with two supplementary volumes for dialect and archaic words. The first part of volume one contains 718 words for the letter A.—E.B.

LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Kosch, Wilhelm. *Deutsches Literaturlexikon*. Ausgabe in einem Band, bearb. von Bruno Berger. Bern: Francke [1963]. 511p. DM 39, .

Wilpert, Gero von. *Deutsches Dichterlexikon; biographisch-bibliographisches Handwörterbuch zur deutscher Literaturgeschichte*. Stuttgart: A. Kröner [1963]. 657p. DM 17,50.

At hand are two similar compact dictionaries of German-language literature. The Berger abridgement of Kosch (*Guide* R523, etc.) uses much the same format, and stresses recent authors (*e.g.*, Grass and Uwe Johnson are included) as did the four-volume edition. Author entries range from

Abraham a Sancta Clara to Zwingli; entries for literary forms and titles (except of anonymous works) have been omitted from the abridgement. In numerous instances indication of phonorecordings are added. The Wilpert volume (entries Aal—Zweter) includes more entries, but less information for each (although the Johnson entry is better herein); titles are included. Both volumes have merit, but extent of coverage and inclusion do vary. Where cost is a factor and the multi-volume edition of Kosch is available, the Wilpert work would probably serve nicely for most libraries.—E.J.R.

Moscow. Publichnaia biblioteka. Otdel spravochno-bibliograficheskoi i informatsionnoi raboty. *Bibliografiia bibliografii po iazykoznaniiu; annotirovannyyi sistemati-cheskoi ukazatel' otechestvennykh izdaniy.* Moscow: 1963. 411p. 1 ruble, 30 kopeks.

Bibliographies, published primarily in Russian but pertaining to linguistics in general and to all world languages, are the subject of this annotated guide compiled from the catalogs and resources of the Lenin library. The recent period is covered most intensively through 1960, according to the introduction, with less thorough coverage for 1961 and 1962 and for pre-1917 materials. The editors also indicate that they have listed some items which are recognized to be of bibliographic rather than scientific interest. Arrangement is principally by language group and individual languages. Bibliographies appearing as parts of books or dictionaries and in periodical literature, as well as those published separately as books, are included.—E.B.

O'Brien, Robert Alfred. *Spanish Plays in English Translation; an Annotated Bibliography.* New York: published for American Educational Theatre Association by Las Americas Publishing Co., 1963. 70p. \$4.

"This volume is the first of a series designed to provide . . . information on translations of foreign plays into English." (Introd.) It is arranged in four historical periods and within each, by author, in chronological sequence. For each author are given full name, dates and a short characterization; for each play, original title,

brief description, number of acts and roles, translator and, when known, agent and royalty charge. There is an index of authors and titles.—R.K.

Scheurweghs, Gustave. *Analytical Bibliography of Writings on Modern English Morphology and Syntax, 1877-1960.* Louvain: Nauwelaerts, 1963- . (Publications of the University of Louvain.) Contents: v.1. Periodical literature and miscellanies. . . . 293p. 250 B.f.

Articles published in the U.S. and in Western and Northern Europe "which have or may have any bearing on the morphology and syntax of Modern English" (Pref.) are listed and briefly abstracted in the first volume of this bibliography. (A second volume will treat book materials and dissertations.) The editor has searched the principal linguistic and philological journals of the period, the publications of many learned societies and teachers' associations, as well as *Festschriften* and miscellanies. Separate sections treat American, English, Dutch, French, German, and Scandinavian and Finnish periodicals, with sub-sections for individual titles; articles are arranged chronologically within sub-sections. Further sections list articles from miscellanies, collected papers of individual authors, and a selection from miscellaneous periodicals. There is an author index and one of subjects. Professor Hideo Yamaguchi has contributed an appendix (separately indexed) of Japanese publications.—E.S.

BIOGRAPHY

Concise Dictionary of American Biography. Ed. by J. E. G. Hopkins. New York: Scribner, 1964. 1273p. \$22.50.

With the intention of providing the "essential facts of each biography" in the twenty-two volumes of the *D.A.B.* "for ready reference by students, research workers, journalists" (Pref.), this volume presents every article in the parent work in summary form. Making no attempt to exceed the scope of the original, it does not extend to any subject who died later than 1940. In a few cases where recent scholarship has brought to light new information some revisions have been made by the writers of the original articles. The number of words

in the original determines length of the entries, most being in the ratio of about 1/14 words. Although many more biographies and somewhat more factual detail are to be found in the first volume of *Who Was Who in America* and its companion *Historical Volume, 1607-1896*, the *Concise D.A.B.* will be useful for quick identification and particularly valuable in the home collection or the small library not owning the larger set.—C.S.

Wallace, William Stewart. *The Macmillan Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. 3d. ed., rev. and enl. London and Toronto: Macmillan; New York: St. Martin's, 1963. 822p. \$15.

Earlier editions (1926 and 1945; see *Guide* S82) were entitled *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. The preface points out that the publisher's name is incorporated into the title of this edition "to distinguish it from the monumental *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* now being prepared by the University of Toronto." Until the latter appears, it is good to have this reputable work updated to include prominent Canadians who died before 1961. Some six hundred new entries were added, including notables of Newfoundland from the periods both before and after it became a Canadian province.—E.S.

Who's Who in Spain. 1st ed. Barcelona: Intercontinental Book and Publishing Co., 1963. 998p. \$16.

Another in the publisher's series of biographical dictionaries in English, this is the first new "who's who" for Spain since the second edition, 1950, of *Figuras de hoy* (*Supplement* 2S25). Approximately six thousand biographies are included, and a directory of some fourteen hundred Spanish organizations, associations, and institutions is appended; information is reported as of March 1963. A new edition is promised in two or three years.—E.S.

ATLAS

National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Cartographic Division. *National Geographic Atlas of the World*. Melville Bell Grosvenor, editor-in-chief; James M. Darley, chief cartographer. Washington:

1963. 300p. 50 cm., maps. \$18.75; deluxe ed. \$25.

This handsome world atlas is not merely a collection of maps previously issued by the National Geographic Society: boundaries, shorelines and other topographical features have been revised to cover developments as late as October 1962. Maps are grouped by geographical area, and sections are preceded by a short sketch of each country covered, these sketches presenting a good deal of useful information such as notes on religion, language, economy, and an address of a source of further information. A detailed place name index and a table of contents are included. Distribution of the maps, which range in scale from 1:30,560 to 1:11,404,800, is somewhat uneven, there being a certain emphasis on the United States. A number of the maps are double-page spreads with no marginal allowance which will, unfortunately, make rebinding impracticable.—E.Be.

HISTORY

Bibliographie sur la Pologne: pays, histoire, civilisation. Varsovie: Państwowe wydawnictwo naukowe, 1963. 229p. 40 zlotys.

The purpose of this annotated bibliography, according to the preface, is to acquaint the foreign reader with the material on the geography, history, and culture of Poland, and to serve as a guide to a basic collection on that country. The classed list of 1228 entries gives the titles of works both in Polish and in French, and notes any translations that have appeared. Imprints through 1959 are included, although the cutoff date for history is 1945. A useful name index of authors, editors and translators is included.—E.Be.

Great Britain Public Record Office. *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office*. London: H.M.S.O., 1963. 2v. £5. Contents: v.1, legal records, etc., rev. (to 1960) . . . ; v.2, State papers and departmental records, rev. and extended (to 1960)

Nominally a revision of the 1924 Giuseppe *Guide to the Manuscripts* . . . (*Guide* V284), the present volumes are more properly a reworking and updating of the orig-

inal, and as such will be a reference work of first importance in any library, especially one outside London, concerned with serious research in the political, social, and economic history of Britain since the Middle Ages.

The general arrangement of the two volumes is similar to that in the earlier work. Thus, volume one presents first an introduction and an explanation on the nature of the records and their use, followed by the guide proper to what may be termed the judicial records, these divided into twenty-six major groupings, most of them with numerous subdivisions. Volume two, devoted to state papers and other departmental records, consists of nearly sixty categories (roughly double the number in Giuseppe). In each case identifying or explanatory information about the individual collection is furnished (varying considerably in length according to importance and complexity), together with indication of actual number of boxes, bundles, etc., as well as the P.R.O. classmark. Appendixes include a helpful glossary of terms, a chart of regnal years and statutes, and excellent indexes of names and subjects.—J.N.W.

Hillairet, Jacques. *Dictionnaire historique des rues de Paris*. Paris: Editions de Minuit, c1963. 2v. illus. 180 n.f.

Although luxurious from several points of view—size, format, illustrations, price—Hillairet's new work is not extravagant for any library seriously concerned with the subject. All the streets of Paris, whether still in existence or not, are listed in alphabetical order. Each entry consists of, first, a note giving the number of the street's arrondissement, where it begins and ends, its width and length in meters; then a paragraph telling the names the street has held, at what dates, and for what reasons; and finally, a house-by-house description of important buildings or other landmarks, names of famous people who have lived there, and anecdotes connected with them. There are indexes to former names of streets and to hospitals, theaters, fountains, etc., mentioned in the articles, but not, unfortunately, to people. The author tells us that much of the information comes from the official publication of the Préfecture de la Seine:

Nomenclature des voies publiques et privées, 7th ed., 1951. This seems to be an authoritative, and is certainly a fascinating, reference book.—S.T.

Lafont, Pierre Bernard. *Bibliographie du Laos*. (Publications de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient, v.L) Paris: École française d'Extrême-Orient, 1964. 269p.

Nearly nineteen hundred references to books and periodical articles are included in this classified bibliography dealing with the whole range of Laotian topics under such headings as geography, geology and paleontology, history, language, literature, law, medicine, ethnography, and education. No cutoff date is given, but the preface is dated September 1961, and a fair number of 1961 entries are noted. A special effort was made to include materials in Russian and oriental languages; these are listed in the appropriate subject section with the titles translated into French, but coded to an appendix which gives the title in the original language. The table of contents indicates the subject categories and their subdivisions, and there is an author index. In lieu of cross references an item may be repeated in more than one subject section, and many entries carry a descriptive note.—E.S.

Steinberg, Sigfrid Henry, ed. *A New Dictionary of British History*. London: Edward Arnold; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1963. 407p. 30s.; \$7.95.

Butler, David E. and Freeman, Jennie. *British Political Facts, 1900-1960*. London: Macmillan; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1963. 245p. 40s.; \$8.

These two titles appearing simultaneously through the same American outlet, while different in scope and content, are nonetheless similar in their presentation in ready reference form of a great deal of useful information on British history and politics. Both works are well edited, adapted particularly for the serious student or the non-specialist with limited reference sources available.

The *New Dictionary* is designed as a successor to Brendon's similar work (published 1937; *Guide* V285). New entries have, of course, been added, and spot checking indicates that most of the old ones

have been rewritten. As in the older volume, articles are relatively brief, but clearly and objectively written. There are only rare bibliographic citations, but contributors are indicated by initials. The principal departure in the new work is the omission of biographical articles as such, as well as the several appended tables of sovereigns and other officials.

British Political Facts, though limited to

the twentieth century, is a collection of considerable amount of ready information, tabular in form except for some explanatory notes and introductions. The twenty chapters treat such materials as ministries, parties, sovereigns, elections, civil service, treaties, public communication, and a wide selection of economic and social statistics.—J.N.W.

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PUBLIC INTEREST . . .

(Continued from page 278)

the philosophy of library science were, and are, the semantic expressions of concurrent ideas. Both expressed the general philosophy of their time.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

Concluding this essay, we are faced with the perennial question which arises in connection with any theoretical work, especially in a predominantly practical field such as library science—the question of relevance: “So what?”

The basic approach of this paper consists in a search for a unifying principle—for consistency—to prevent internal contradiction between various specialized activities within the library. We have considered in this paper the peculiar nature of library operations, characterized by both an internal diversification of roles and at the same time a unification of these library activities into a general library service to society. Thus, the specialist must apply his specific approach within the context of a general library operation, while a general theory of librarianship must both include a formulation of the basic postulates of the discipline itself, which distinguish it from other disciplines and at the same time account for the existence of a number of subtheories, reflecting the diversified objectives of library specializations.

An awareness of unity is expressed in the over-all functioning of the library in society, while competition between the

various specialized approaches enriches the dynamic growth of the discipline, resulting in an efficient, valuable, and useful service to the reader.

This view of the library can be applied by the librarian in his dual role as both recipient and initiator of social pressures. The library will not only serve the interests of its own community but also contribute to the development of new interests. Thus, although the library is primarily an institution designed to serve the reader, its contemporary position in society suggests an active initiation of ideas rather than a passive providing of books.

In short, there is a need for the development of a philosophy of librarianship which will probe into the complexities of its nature, discussing, enlarging, or refuting syntheses similar to the one presented in this paper.

Such a philosophy may clarify the interpretation of our purposes, thus solving the practical difficulties diagnosed sometime ago by C. O. Houle: “. . . librarians speak at cross purposes. . . . They fail to understand one another because they do not appreciate in what different ways they approach a common problem. Often they do not even know how to ask one another the question which will make their differences clear, much less resolve them.”²

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² Cyril O. Houle, “Basic Philosophy of Library Service for Adult Education,” *Library Journal*, LXXI (November 1, 1946), 1513.