

McCarthy, Cavan. *Developing Libraries in Brazil; With a Chapter on Paraguay*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1975. 207p. \$8.00. (LC 74-23681) (ISBN 0-8108-0750-5)

A sensitive academic librarian (University of Leeds) spends thirteen months professionally employed and traveling throughout Brazil during 1971-72. The results are empirical vignettes of frustration, accomplishment, irrationality, and excesses: any perceptive, articulate librarian with Latin American field experience can offer similar fare. McCarthy generally succeeds in describing most types of libraries, the principal problems confronting them, and highlighting innovative aspects worthy of consideration by Western (i.e., North American, British, and parts of Europe) librarians.

Brazilian acceptance of Western library theory and practice emphasizes the dichotomous nature such models have in economically disadvantaged countries. From the sophistication of São Paulo to the anachronisms of Maranhão, effective service often cannot be realized due to the conflict between theoretical objectives and Brazilian reality. McCarthy identifies closed stacks and restrictive or nonexistent loan policies as fundamental problems nationally. After formal education is completed, the "library habit" ceases; hence, in most libraries patrons are the young, but McCarthy suggests Brazilians probably would not trust any age group to return borrowed materials!

Library science education and the difficulties of employment are covered sufficiently for introductory survey purposes in comparative librarianship. Nearly all courses are taught by part-time, practicing librarians, usually graduates of the same institute or university. Because most of the practicing librarians are women with limited geographic and occupational mobility, local placement is common; the implications of endogamy are obvious, as some North American academic libraries know. Professional positions often are part time and government controlled. Many librarians toil in totally unsuitable structures with architectural design inhibiting the normal library functions, maintain too many card catalogs, have little or no money for subscriptions or books, and do not benefit or engage in networking.

In spite of adverse conditions, McCarthy identifies some outreach measures such as bookboxes serving various sites of large employment in lieu of bookmobiles or branch libraries and bookbanks for economically disadvantaged students. The National Book Institute's (INL) innovative publishing and library programs are worthy of consideration by the economically developed countries. Hundreds of libraries owe their existence to the INL core collection; INL offers technical training for paraprofessionals managing these collections. Guaranteed bloc purchase of approved titles is part of INL's coedition venture with other presses.

The author credits many of Brazil's problems to an unquestioning adherence to the U.S. model by the rightist military government (1964-). The importation of "foreign subculture" is deplored, but to ignore internationally acclaimed Brazilians as Heitor Vila-Lôbos, Jorge Amado, João Guimarães Rosa, and Clarice Lispector is unjust. One must also exercise critical caution with McCarthy's racial observations.

The chapter on Paraguay is descriptively similar to commentary on Brazil's north-east.

The book as a whole is a useful contribution about libraries, library service, and librarianship. For a comprehensive, analytical survey of Brazilian libraries and education, however, one must consult William V. Jackson's two articles in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (vol. 3, p.166-259). His extensive bibliographies include citations through 1969. Those interested in research library collections will still find standard Robert Levine's *Brazil: Field Research Guide in the Social Sciences* (New York: Columbia University, Institute of Latin American Studies, 1966). While this reviewer was disappointed with the treatment of policy issues (e.g., budget, collection scope, state and federal governmental involvement) as well as the anecdotal nature of the study, McCarthy offers much worthy of further thought and research.—Peter T. Johnson, *Ibero-American Bibliographer*, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities.

Drazniowsky, Roman, comp. *Map Librarianship: Readings*. Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow, 1975. 547p. \$20.00 (LC 74-19244) (ISBN 0-8108-0739-4)