

and Lockheed's DIALOG) are discussed briefly but without comparison, and the National Library of Medicine's various MEDLINE services are then described more fully.

There is no bibliography, although there are references at the end of each chapter. There is a brief glossary and two appendices that explain binary arithmetic and how to compute a Modulus 11 check digit.

For its original purpose—a brief introduction to the field for British students—the text is probably adequate. For American students, there are better and more pertinent works available; and for those already familiar with the basics of library automation this book offers very little that is new. For the British perspective on library automation, R. T. Kimber's *Automation in Libraries* is older but more substantial, although Tedd's book provides occasionally useful details on specific British systems. This volume is recommended for comprehensive collections only.—*Stephen R. Salmon, University of California, Berkeley.*

Bry, Ilse. *The Emerging Field of Sociobibliography: The Collected Essays of Ilse Bry*. Edited and compiled by Lois Afflerbach and Marga Franck. Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, Number 19. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Pr., 1977. 251p. \$17.50. LC 76-28644. ISBN 0-8371-9289-7.

The late Ilse Bry viewed entries in a bibliography the way an archaeologist views shards—as material traces of an aspect of human activity, capable, like the pottery fragments, of yielding insights into the purposes, values, and daily practices of the culture that created and used them. Thus “in sociobibliography, bibliographic data are investigated for a variety of scientific purposes independent of users' needs to consult the publications” (p.237). Generally the purpose is to shed light on the character of communication in scholarly disciplines and the roles played by a discipline's literature in shaping the knowledge to which the field lays claim.

The *Mental Health Book Review Index*, issued from 1956 to 1972 by a committee of librarians headed by Ilse Bry, was a location tool for reviews of books in the behavioral sciences and also a vehicle for

investigation and discussion of the use of bibliography as an analytic instrument. Editorials published with the index pointed out trends and relationships discernible in the index listings and considered how these might contribute to greater understanding both of the history and sociology of science, and of the requirements of scientific bibliography. These editorials, some of which have been reprinted previously in journals, are here collected in book form under the editorship of two of the principal collaborators on *MHBRI*.

The essays raise a number of interesting issues: the contrast in purpose and point of view between subject bibliography, as conceived by the academic community, and library cataloging (essay 1); the scholarly contribution of book reviews and distortion of their scientific function by evaluative perspectives imported from literary and art criticism (essay 4); ways in which conventional bibliographic styles and standards suppress scientifically valuable data about books (essay 7); the potential of bibliographic organization for shaping the character of a field of study (essay 8) and for illuminating trends in a subject's development (essays 9, 10, 13).

Although the earliest pieces in the book were written nearly twenty years ago, the discussion remains fresh and provocative, characterized throughout by the author's clear-sighted view of the contribution of bibliography to science and her wide-ranging historical and philosophical erudition. Indeed, Bry's ideas may be said to have grown in interest and relevance now that the flowering of computers has so greatly multiplied bibliographic possibilities without contributing the knowledge needed for intelligent choices. Librarians curious to decipher meaning behind our daily tools, and concerned to make them more effective, will value this book.

One complaint: The final essay, which is the most comprehensive statement of the concept of sociobibliography, is included only in summary form. A fuller version may be found in Morris Gelfand, ed., *Access to Knowledge and Information in the Social Sciences and Humanities* (Queens College Press, 1974).—*Thelma Freides, Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

The History of the Popes from the Close of the Middle Ages

by Ludwig von Pastor

Forty Volumes

The Lives of the Popes in the Early Middle Ages

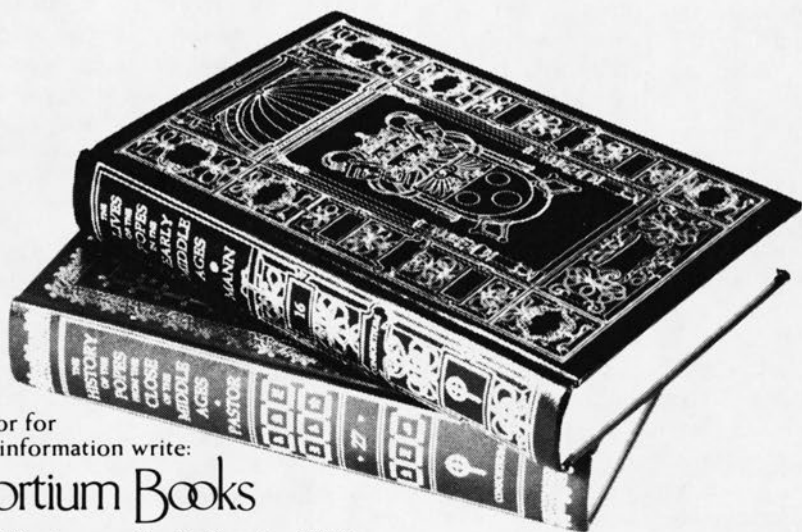
by Horace Kinder Mann

Nineteen Volumes

From the early Middle Ages, through the Renaissance and Reformation, the Pope remained the most powerful sovereign in Christendom. In their classic works, Ludwig Pastor and Horace Mann record for posterity the lives of the Supreme Pontiffs and illuminate the far reaching impact of the Papacy on the secular world. Pastor's and Mann's interpretations of the Papacy also offer an intimate look at the princes, peasants, artists, writers and philosophers who shaped the pre-modern era. Their scholarship has retained its force through decades of time and remains unsurpassed and unduplicated today.

For church historians, medievalists, students and scholars of the Renaissance and Reformation, historians of Western civilization . . . available again, in a limited edition.

**This 59 volume work is being offered through 1977
at the introductory price of \$1,800.
After this time the price will be \$2,000.**



To order, or for
additional information write:

Consortium Books

Box 9001 Wilmington, North Carolina 28401