

The Hawkins work is the long awaited supplement to the base volume which covered the period, 1930-1944. The purpose of the work is to supply descriptions of the outstanding scientific, medical and technical books written by citizens of the United States and Canada, published in the United States during the years 1945-1948. Citations are given for about 2600 books.

The subject scope is indicated in the title, but there are certain exceptions. The social sciences are omitted, except for certain works in such fields as nursing and psychology,

where some books which are listed are equally useful for sociological and technical information. The selections on a given subject are intended to represent the books that would be available in a well-stocked American library with an active collection in that subject. The list is one of important and useful books, rather than a list of "best" books. This publication and the one which it supplements is a "must" for the general reference collection in any college or university, and an "absolute must" for every science library.—*Thomas P. Fleming, Columbia University.*

Peter Schoeffer

Peter Schoeffer of Gernsheim and Mainz, with a List of His Surviving Books and Broad-sides. By Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt. Rochester, N.Y., Leo Hart, 1950, 146p. \$5.00. (No. 4 of the Printers' Valhalla series, edited by George Parker Winship.)

Three names stand out in the story of the beginning of printing at Mainz: Gutenberg, the inventor; Fust, the financier; and Schoeffer, the artist and craftsman. Schoeffer, the young assistant of Gutenberg and later, the son-in-law of Fust, is the subject of this attractive and surprisingly interesting monograph by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt.

Probably a student (possibly of law) at the Sorbonne in 1449, he worked there as a calligrapher and a manuscript copyist. From Paris he went to Mainz, which is close to Gernsheim, his home, and became an assistant to Gutenberg. But at the famous trial on Nov. 6, 1455, Schoeffer testified in favor of Fust who, awarded the decision, took away most of the inventor's printing materials.

Next, we find Schoeffer operating a press, first with Fust, then by himself. His experience as a calligrapher, the evidence shows, aided him to become an excellent typesetter and book-designer. The beauty of his books has aroused the admiration of bookmen for nearly five centuries.

It was but gradually that Peter Schoeffer broke away from his first practice of making his printed books follow the artistic standards of the manuscript. In these his earliest productions Schoeffer's difficult color printing—whether or not we accept the reconstruction by Rudolph Ruzicka and by Heinrich Wallau (p.40-45) of its method—involved great

technical problems. But slowly experience taught Schoeffer to think of typography as a new art, of the use of contrasting black and white, aided, when the individual purchaser of the book desired it, by color added by the rubricator.

Again, Schoeffer printed law books with their texts on balanced pages surrounded by commentary which referred to the pages enclosed. Schoeffer, to be sure, could print from a manuscript which had the commentary surrounding the text and could abbreviate or expand the spelling of his legal Latin copy—an expedient probably more easily employed than those suggested (p.48-49). Nevertheless, this was a typographical feat requiring skill.

Schoeffer was a clever and successful business man who sold the books which he printed. Aided by an approximately complete unpublished list of surviving Schoeffer imprints compiled by the *Gesamtkatalog* staff, which he obtained while serving with the U.S. Military Government in Germany, Dr. Lehmann-Haupt is able to show how varied were his productions. Most bookmen know Schoeffer as a printer of stately missals and Bibles. But Schoeffer printed not only a considerable amount of theology and law, the classics and other serious works, but also a cookbook and a calendar. He also produced numerous items of job printing—the bulls of popes, proclamations of the emperor, letters of the warring claimants to the archdiocese of Mainz, indulgences, propoganda pieces against the Turks and even the announcement of a sporting event of a municipally conducted cross-bow tournament.

Schoeffer, like a good business man, ad-

vertised his books, even issuing a warning that Mentelin's edition of Jerome's *Epistles* was inferior to the edition which he was about to publish. To sell his books he appears to have maintained a regular sales organization.

His printing business brought Schoeffer prosperity if not wealth. He owned real estate in both Mainz and Frankfurt and engaged with partners in mining and other enterprises. So well regarded was he in Mainz that in 1489 he was appointed a sec-

ular judge of that city.

Dr. Lehmann-Haupt has given us a balanced biography of Schoeffer, of the man as well the printer. The value of the book is increased by its 47 illustrations, ranging from a simple printer's mark to a reduced facsimile in color of the elaborate opening page of the 1459 Psalter. The book, it may be said in conclusion, is a credit to the Printers' Vallahalla series.—*Edwin Elliott Willoughby, Folger Shakespeare Library.*

Nominees for A.C.R.L. Officers 1951-52

Nominations for the following terms: vice president and president-elect, one year as vice president, one year as president; director, three years; representatives on A.L.A. Council, four years.

Vice president (One to be elected)

David H. Clift, associate librarian, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Robert W. Severance, librarian, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Director at Large (One to be elected)

Julian S. Fowler, librarian, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

Stanley L. West, director of libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

Representatives on A.L.A. Council (Two to be elected)

Frances B. Jenkins, acting head of branch libraries, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

Robert W. Orr, director of the library, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Wyman W. Parker, librarian, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

Katharine M. Stokes, librarian, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Biographical Notes

Vice President (President-Elect)

CLIFT, DAVID H., associate librarian, Yale University, 1945-date. B.S., University of Kentucky, 1930; B.S. in L.S., Columbia, 1931; reference assistant, New York Public Library, 1931-37; assistant to director of libraries, Columbia University, 1937-42; served as private to 1st Lt. AUS (assigned to OSS), 1942-45; deputy chief, Library of Congress Mission to Germany, 1945-46; instructor, New Haven State Teachers College, summer session, 1948; member: A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration, 1947-date (chairman, 1950-51); Special Libraries Association, Connecticut Valley Chapter (treasurer, 1949-50); Connecticut Library Association (secretary, 1947-49; first vice-president, 1949-50; president, 1950-51); New York Library Club (president, 1941-42); Friends of the Hamden (Conn.) Library (program chairman, 1950-51); Yale Club, New York; Associate Fellow, Trumbull College, Yale. Served on A.C.R.L. Program Committee for Midwinter Meeting, 1950. Mr. Clift is a member of the University Libraries Section of A.C.R.L.

SEVERANCE, ROBERT W., librarian, Baylor University,

1940-date. A.B., Furman, 1928; A.M., Virginia, 1929; B.S. in L.S., Peabody, 1933; high school teacher, Greenville, S.C., 1929-30; assistant professor of history, Judson College, 1930-32; Knoxville Public Library, 1933-34; circulation librarian, North Carolina State College, 1934-36; librarian and professor of library science, Stetson University, 1936-40; military service, 1943-45; secretary, vice-president and president, Florida Library Association; chairman of College Division, Texas Library Association; vice-president and president, Texas Library Association; representative on A.L.A. Council from Florida and Texas; chairman, A.C.R.L. Membership Committee, 1948-50; member: A.C.R.L. Research Planning Committee; American Association of University Professors; editor: *Texas Library Journal*. Mr. Severance is a member of the College Libraries Section and the University Libraries Section of A.C.R.L.

Director at Large

FOWLER, JULIAN S., librarian and professor of bibliography, Oberlin College, 1928-date. B.A., Hobart, 1911; certificate, New York State Library School, 1922;