

in Germany," while Widmann tried to answer the question, "Where can bibliographical evidence be found concerning German publications issued from 1939 to 1950?" (p.16), which allowed him to include much material published outside of Germany.

In the introductory chapter, on the scope of his "Überblick," the author discusses and illustrates the difficulties of his undertaking—questionnaires and personal visits played an important role, publishers rather than libraries often had the answers—and again after the 216 pages of bibliographical listing proper, in a "Rückblick und Umblick," he analyzes once more the plight of the scholar and scientist resulting from the political and social disruption of the period. Views and data as published by the author elsewhere (e.g. in *Libri*, 1950) as well as by other authorities, notably Georg Leyh (*Bericht*: 1947, supplemented in the *Deutschland-Jahrbuch*, 1949), Gustav Hofmann and Heinrich Middendorf (in v. 34, 1950, of the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Bibliotheken*) and by the dean of German bibliographers, Joris Vorstius, in his forementioned *Ergebnisse*, are further elaborated and extended.

Widmann then summarizes the state of German bibliography and succeeds in showing, how on this background of necessity, German librarians and bibliographers have tried and are trying valiantly to do their part in building anew their shattered world. The necessary threads are established for the reader: the present degree of coverage of an area is shown, gaps are indicated, prospects of future publication discussed, whether it be in the complicated framework of the *Deutsche Allgemeine Bibliographie* (p.16-22), especially after 1940, the date of the last *Fünfjahreskatalog*, or in any of the subject fields, such as Germanistics (p.79-86).

A special chapter is devoted to an extensive review of foreign effort and success in covering German publications of the period under consideration. In some areas the Germans have not succeeded as yet in reestablishing systematic bibliography (e.g. *Oriental Studies*, p.88-93, and *Classical Philology*, p.68-74) and foreign publications are serving instead (Dutch and French in the fields referred to).

In bringing Vorstius up to date and complementing him amply the author has produced indeed a well-documented picture of attainments, which, though necessarily un-

even, nevertheless warrant the modest claims of progress made.

Every reader will heartily endorse Widmann's closing thoughts on the value of bibliography in bridging the gulf between specialists as well as between peoples and that it may succeed better than after the first holocaust of our time in closing the gaps. May the author receive much help in response to his introductory Herder-quotation: "lass es nicht beim Tadel, sondern bessere und baue weiter."—*Icko Iben, Urbana, Illinois.*

## Copyright and Librarians

*Literary Property in the United States.* By Ralph R. Shaw. Washington, Scarecrow Press, 1950, v, 277p. \$6.00.

Librarians who have followed the illustrious activities of versatile Ralph Shaw will not be surprised to learn that this present writing is of the same high caliber as his inventing. How he finds time to achieve all of his many accomplishments is something for wonder and amazement. With this treatise, based on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago, Shaw has definitely made a significant contribution to a clearer understanding of the rights of authors from historical, philosophical and practical standpoints.

The book is not a guide for obtaining copyright such as Margaret Nicholson's *A Manual of Copyright Practice* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1945, 255p.), but forms an excellent companion volume to it. The book is not a law treatise for practitioners although such terms as "assign," "license," "prima facie" and "affected with a public interest" are employed without definition. Rather, this work attempts to determine from the American court records just what literary property is; its relation to copyright; what copyright is intended to protect, why, how and for whom; the extent to which these goals have been achieved; and what, if anything, may be done about the situation. An attempt is made to identify all significant problems, stating the extent to which the courts have interpreted each and indicating possible solutions.

Practical minded authors who are experienced with the procedure of the Copyright Office may register a minor objection to Shaw's method of presenting one vital aspect

of copyright law. In his preface Shaw accurately states that copyright is obtained merely by publishing with the proper notice, but then he waits until the sixth and ninth chapters to offer the caveat that certain other requirements are also necessary.

Members of the publishing trade will undoubtedly object with angelic indignation to Shaw's contention that in having the copyright in their name, believing that they "may gain more or get better protection," they do so "at the expense of the author." This stand, along with substantiated examples of confusion in the law, forms the basis for Shaw's proposal to redraft the copyright statute and make copyright the exclusive domain of authors. The reviewers concede that this position may be sound in theory, but from a practical standpoint they query whether any substantial change would be effected in the light of standardized contracts and practices in the trade.

Unquestionably the most valuable portion of the book as far as librarians are concerned is Chapter XVIII which deals with literary property and scholarly institutions. The constantly haunting legal problems of facsimile reproduction, such as by photostat and microfilm, recompiling and the replacement of pages is expertly dealt with in a lucid manner. This chapter in effect reveals one more facet of the classic problem facing libraries with regard to the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts, theses and other materials, namely, exactly what is it that the donor has a right to give in the first place? After perusing the chapter with this aspect in mind, librarians are well advised to re-examine their collections. Some startling discoveries and reactions are assured.

Each of the pithy chapters ends with a summary of its contents, which is useful both as a preliminary survey of each chapter and a final thought provoking reappraisal. The text is well documented although the references are inconveniently placed at the end of the book in a separate section and the term "C.O.B." is constantly used without any indication that it is an abbreviation for *Copyright Office Bulletin*. Bibliophiles and perfectionists may object to the price of six dollars placed on the volume by author-publisher Shaw, pointing out the uneven inking, slick paper and deficiencies in the binding process. Notwithstanding this, the treatise is highly

recommended for librarians and others who believe that it is their obligation to have more than a smattering of the concepts of literary property and copyright law.—*Harry Bitner and Mortimer Schwartz, Columbia University Law Library.*

## Educational Measurement

*Educational Measurement.* Ed. by E. F. Lindquist and published by the American Council on Education. Washington, D.C. 1951, 819p. \$6.00.

This is a comprehensive handbook and textbook on the theory and technique of educational measurement on the advanced graduate level. The volume was planned by the Committee on Measurement and Guidance of the American Council on Education in 1945 to overcome the lack of reference and instructional materials in those universities offering graduate training in educational measurement.

Seventy experts in the measurement field, under the general editorship of E. F. Lindquist, participated in the writing of this volume. The proceeds from the sale are to go into a permanent Measurement Book Project Fund which will be used for future revisions of the work.

The book contains 18 chapters divided into three parts: The Functions of Measurement in Education; The Construction of Achievement Tests; and Measurement Theory. Ample charts, graphs, illustrations and selected references are furnished throughout. For those teacher-training institutions not offering graduate courses in measurement, this work may well find a place in the reference collection to supplement works such as the *Encyclopedia of Educational Research*.—*Irving A. Verschoor, Columbia University.*

## The H. W. Wilson Company

*The H. W. Wilson Company; Half a Century of Bibliographic Publishing.* By John Lawler. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1950, \$3.00.

Lawler's *The H. W. Wilson Company* is presumably an example of the growing tendency of historical scholarship to be concerned with the critical analysis of the emergence and development of American commercial and industrial enterprise. But in the pages