compilers was to produce as nearly complete a
guide as possible within the limits imposed by
the time available for the project and by the
vast amount of material to be studied. De-
finite bounds of inclusion and coverage were
established for this initial work. The area
of geographic coverage is carefully delineated
on pages 5-6 of the Introduction; it is outlined
graphically on the index map which is repro-
duced in each of the volumes. The span of
time included is almost entirely the nineteenth
and twentieth centuries; this necessarily ex-
cludes important earlier works. Some
publications which were too difficult to
analyze in the time allowed for the prepara-
tion of these volumes were omitted. It has
been estimated that approximately 50% of
the material which might have been included
within the scope of this set is yet to be in-
dexed. There is, for example, in the Stefans-
son Library, alone, still a sizeable quantity of
material in this category but, as yet, unre-
corded. This fact does not detract from the
Arctic Bibliography; rather, so much is pre-
tended to the user that he is impressed not
only by the wealth of Arctic writings but also
by the immense work which has been pro-
duced. Moreover, in order to bring the initial
publication up to date and to include, as well,
both older works not previously analyzed and
some classics, supplements—several already
nearing completion—will be issued.

One would probably be correct in presum-
ing that in preliminary discussions the com-
pilers debated the relative merits of the
chosen author listing, with its subject-geo-
graphic index, in comparison with a chrono-
logical or other arrangement. The plan
selected is probably the most convenient for
the majority of users and, considering the
bibliography as a tool of great
value for cita-
tion verification, one is inclined to think that
the best decision was made.

A few more than twenty thousand items are
recorded in Volumes 1 and 2, the author list-
ing. They represent coverage of almost all
the earth sciences as well as anthropology,
botany, zoology and sociology. Books, papers
and contributions to works of multiple author-
ship are noted under each author's name.
Entries include not only the transcribed title
but also English translations of foreign-
language titles—a great advantage where a
majority of the listings are in Russian, Ger-
man or the Scandinavian languages. Gen-
erally, when books or articles include a bibli-
ography, this is noted with either the number
of items included in it or the paging. De-
scriptive annotations are given for each entry.
A library location symbol indicates where the
cited copy was examined. In this regard, the
searcher should note, for example, that
though Item 4472 is a Library of Congress
copy, this does not signify that the Stefansson
Library at Dartmouth does not have it. One
might wish that in the case of monographs
and books which, like this, are not found in
many collections, more library locations could
have been noted. (True—a footnote on page
8 indicates that the LC Union Catalog or the
Union List of Serials should be consulted for
other copies of books and locations of
journals.)

Volume 3 comprises the index—in itself a
remarkable tool. Not only do the geographic
entries have subject subheadings but the
subject entries have, first of all, geographic
subdivision; then, subject subdivisions. This
factor, plus abundant cross-referencing, makes
it almost impossible for the user not to find
the item for which he is searching. Inclusion
of imprint date with the brief title is an
additional aid. The index illustrates the in-
tention of the Arctic Bibliography to note,
first of all, the original records of explorations
and reports of scientists; the entries under
"Expeditions" extend for 107 pages.

The Arctic Bibliography was financed by
funds from the U.S. Department of Defense
under a contract with the Arctic Institute of
North America. The Canadian government
also contributed financially to its completion.
Anyone whose work touches on the polar
region and who must work with its literature
and bibliography owes a debt of thanks to the
compilers of the Arctic Bibliography but
especially to Marie Tremaine of the Arctic
Institute of North America who has both
directed and inspired this undertaking.—Vir-
ginia L. Close, Dartmouth College Library.

Serial Publications

Periodicals and Serials, Their Treatment in
London, Aslib, 1953. 200p. (Aslib Manu-
als, vol. 3.) 12s.6d. (10s.6d. to members).
The so-called incunabula period for serials
extended through the year 1700. In the two-
and-a-half centuries since 1700 each age has
been impressed with the upsurge of serial
publications, so much so that each has pro-
claimed itself the age of serials. The twen-
tieth century is more impressed with its ac-
complishments than preceding centuries, and
well it may be. For following the introduc-
tion of wood pulp paper as well as major de-
velopments in printing and near-print, the
twentieth century has witnessed an astounding
multiplication of serial publications. The
stage has been reached where three-fourths
of the intake at the Library of Congress is
serial in character.

Special libraries were quick to realize the
research value of serials, much more so than
the average general library. They have been
enterprising in acquiring and servicing serials;
they have done pioneer work in processing
them. So it is in keeping with special-library
traditions that Aslib has published a decidedly
worthwhile book on serial publications writ-
ten by the chief cataloger of the National
Film Library in London. Naturally the book
reflects British practice to a high degree, but
Mr. Grenfell is well acquainted with recent
American writings on his subject and has
made good use of them.

The tone of the publication is set in a fore-
word by Miss Ditmas who says: "the literary,
scientific or technical periodical has come to
stay—more, it has won such an honoured place
amongst the tools of research that it has at-
tained the right to be treated sui generis, and
not as a poor relation of the book." Miss
Ditmas goes on to say that this status has
always been acknowledged by special libraries,
but that library manuals have often been in-
fluenced by the outlook of the general library
where monographs outweigh periodicals in
importance. One could wish that Miss Dit-
mas had said "popular" instead of "general
library," because the research library of prac-
tically all types, general or special, ought to
accord priority to serials as the backbone of
its collection. Actually there is too much
truth for comfort in her statement; for with a
few exceptions (like the Library of Congress
and the New York Public Library) the gen-
eral research library has been remiss in its
collecting and overelaborate in its processing
of serials. So today the general research
library has much to learn from the special
library; and hence the value to the general
library of manuals like Grenfell's.

Something like a quarter of the book is
devoted to annotated bibliographies, a valu-
able feature in itself. Grenfell also takes
up a fair amount of space hunting the chi-
mera of a definition of the term "periodical"
or "serial." In this connection he says that
"the term 'serial,' although it has such a wide
connotation, finds comparatively little men-
tion in professional literature, whilst in every-
day usage the term 'periodical' is used now
more in the sense of the term 'serial.'" He
adds that "the term 'serial' is becoming un-
popular and a more comprehensive interpre-
tation is being given to the term 'periodical.'"
Quite evidently he is reflecting European
thought, not American, as can be seen from
the fact that the United States has not only
its Union List of Serials (which Grenfell
graciously calls "the greatest union list ever
issued"), but also its New Serial Titles and
its Serial Slants, while its libraries have nu-
merous serial divisions, sections, etc.

But the major part of the work is devoted
to the techniques of acquisition, visible-index
work, circulation, reference, and binding.
One interesting fact is that although the au-
thor is a cataloger, the cataloging of serials
is played down, being limited to a brief dis-
cussion of the theory of entry in a chapter
entitled "Bibliographic Arrangement and
Listing of Titles." On the one hand, it is in
keeping with special-library practice to play
down the catalog records, but on the other,
it is unfortunate to skimp in an area where
there may be most interesting developments
to report, such as the ideas Marjorie Plant
put in operation in the British Library of
Political and Economic Science. (See her
"Periodicals Procedure in a University Li-
brary," COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3:62-3, December 1941.) Likewise classifica-
tion receives short shrift in a chapter on "Dis-
play, Storage, Binding and Shelving." Yet
even if a library is advised to dispense with
classification, there are problems to be faced:
how to arrange the material when there are
changes of name or title; how to shelve annual
reports, government documents, and other
types of serials; and how to arrange the
charge file when call numbers are not used.

The work has been planned for the small
special library, and as such will be really use-

OCTOBER, 1954 469
ful, particularly in Great Britain. But it has much to offer research libraries in general, so it is natural to hope that the book will be strengthened in a second edition.—Andrew D. Osborn, Harvard College Library.


I would like to say at the outset that the theme for the present article (as well as for one to be included in a future issue of CARL, which will deal with “The Printed Picture”) was selected solely on the basis of the books to be reviewed. The decision was made before Anglo-American relations had become once again a major point in current world politics. It was also made before I knew that one of the books would turn out such a powerful and direct plea for cultural cooperation of the English speaking world. This is the volume by Lawrence C. Powell.

The first of the three divisions of The Alchemy of Books, a charming and inspiring collection of essays, is entitled “Bookman in Britain.” It is largely the fruit of a prolonged stay of the author on a Guggenheim Fellowship for the study of the British antiquarian booktrade and its relation with America. From the piece “A Southwesterner in Scotland” I quote the following: “In this luckless time when ties between countries of different languages are strained to the snapping point, it is the strong bond between the English-speaking people which may prove the one thing that ensures our common survival, and that of lesser nations who look to us for protection.” With Powell, this is not, as so often, a convenient phrase, but the expression of a conviction born from a life devoted to the individual’s search for books and the wholly natural practice of personal reading. His rediscovery of the shrines of 17th century literature in the war-scarred British Isles is matched by the new discovery of some fresh poetic talent of today of which many of us have probably not heard. It is good, very good, that a professional librarian appears as a personal guide to new literary values.

“Reading and Collecting,” the second section, begins with a piece called “A Bookman’s Credo”, and there is not an article in this section which does not express this credo. In “Librarians as Readers of Books”, for instance, one finds not far from each other, the following sentences: “The aspect of librarianship which interests me most is—books.... I urge librarians to be on the alert for today’s unstandardized books... I want to consider reading as a personal therapy, as a tonic....” The third section, “People, Books, and Places,” is perhaps more intimate and personal even than the earlier portions, and it contains some very fine prose.

The next item on the list, A History of the Old English Letter Foundries, carries us back to the early traditions of English printing and typefounding. On reading this new edition of the classic work on English printing type, previously published in the one edition of 1887, one realizes two things: first, how much of today’s familiar and current knowledge of English printing history comes from this one source, and second, what a splendid piece of work A. F. Johnson has done as the editor of the new edition.

The book was originally planned by Reed