

the principles which will guide the college librarian in administering such a service. In the chapter entitled "The Liberal Arts Functions of the University Library," Stanley E. Gwynn occupies himself almost entirely with two matters: first, with the importance of giving students instruction in the role of the library and librarian in society and in the methods of using library materials; and, second, with the admonition that well-qualified librarians can be more influential in encouraging the reading habit among students than "luxuriously furnished reading-rooms and the invitingly arranged shelves." I am sure he would agree that it would be nice to have both. Wyman W. Parker of the University of Cincinnati presents in "College-Library Personnel" an informed and lively discussion of one of our most pressing problems in library work today and makes several promising suggestions for bringing new recruits into the profession. I would like to think that our profession "offers great variety and prestige to its members," and I bless Parker for saying it, but it is a deplorably well-known fact that our lack of prestige is one of the principal deterrents to encouraging young people of ability and personality to become librarians. There are many problems in the theory and practice of book selection, and for those who want a fresh look at how these may be solved for the liberal arts college library, Dr. Newton F. McKeon's gracefully written chapter on "The Nature of the College-Library Book Collection" can be warmly recommended.

The author of the chapter on "Finance and the College Library," Reubin Frodin, executive dean, four-year and professional colleges, State University of New York, may be a newcomer to many of us librarians of the common species, but he has had an interesting and varied library career which he describes at the beginning of his chapter. In view of his background, associations, and obvious wit, it is little bewildering how in this contribution he could write so much in the manner of a dilettante. His treatment is a breezy ramble through the byways of college library finance. He says nothing about the how, why, or wherefore of college library financial problems that has not been better said in the library writings to which he refers so contemptuously. Where sincerity and fundamental seriousness are called for, notes of smugness and falsity are perpetually intruding. The only construc-

tive point in the chapter is the proposal of the New York State Regents' Committee (of which Mr. Frodin is an important member) for linking up the college libraries in the state in a system of mutual help. Presumably many of the college libraries are deficient in support, book collections, and space, and need more help than can be secured in a liberal system of interlibrary loans. The Regents' Committee feels that college library service could be improved by strengthening the New York State Library as a kind of "library's library," to which the college libraries should be able to look for the supply of those rarer and more costly sets and journal files which they cannot provide themselves.

The value of a liberal arts education, the importance of books and libraries in the provision of a liberal education, the necessity for appraising the college library in humanistic terms, the uncertainty about the position of the library and librarian in the college, and the necessity for better communication between library and faculty and library and administration; these, I believe, are the fundamental principles of the annual conference proceedings which Herman Fussler summarizes and interprets in the final chapter of this book. While he states there is nothing "dramatically new" in the ideas expressed in the conference meetings, he and his colleagues have taken, as I am sure Dean Asheim and the Graduate School intended them to take, a wide and high view of the college library task. They have endeavored to establish the position which it ought to hold as one of the most powerful means of enabling the college to fulfill its purpose.—*Guy R. Lyle, Emory University Library.*

## Book Collecting

*Book Collecting and Scholarship.* Essays by Theodore C. Blegen, James Ford Bell, Stanley Pargellis, Colton Storm, and Louis B. Wright. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1954. 67 p. \$5.00.

This handsome little book—designed by Jane McCarthy of the University of Minnesota Press, crisply printed by the Lund Press, and tastefully, as well as durably bound, by the A. J. Dahl Company—will itself be sought by private collectors, librarians and scholars. The collection of essays derives from the program papers read on the occasion

of dedicating, in October, 1953, the James Ford Bell Room of the University of Minnesota Library which houses the great Bell Collection of rare books and maps on discovery and exploration.

The five essays, all brief, contribute facets to the general theme of scholarship's debt to discriminating collectors. The first paper by Theodore Blegen, dean of Minnesota's Graduate School, nicely introduces the theme, pointing out the distinguished American company of great collectors with whom Mr. Bell's name is linked: Huntington, Folger, Morgan, McCormick, Newberry, Clements, Ayers, Lenox, Chapin, John Carter Brown, Clark, Arents, John G. White, Coe. Mr. Blegen gives us a thumbnail sketch of Mr. Bell, the man, following with some detail on the genesis of the Bell Collection and its final scope. James Ford Bell's own remarks, entitled "Bound Fragments of Time," state his credo as a collector and reveal the way in which his deep interest in trade provided him the key to collecting. This happy choice of a theme led him to the search for records which reveal the evolution of Western institutions during their spread and interplay with other civilizations throughout the world, especially the western hemisphere, as it was discovered and explored.

In the third essay Stanley Pargellis neatly analyzes the *rare book* in terms of the essential factors—importance, demand, scarcity.

With the force and conviction which has endeared Mr. Pargellis to his colleagues in research libraries, he insists upon the scholarly value of the genuine article, the rare book itself as contrasted with the reprint or facsimile. Colton Storm, in "The Specialized Collection" and Louis B. Wright, in "American Book Collectors" return, in specific terms, to the theme of the scholar's debt to the great American book collectors—those whose collections have been added as integrated special collections to important research libraries, and those whose collections have been established as separately housed libraries for the use of the public.

The little volume, *Book Collecting and Scholarship*, is much like the one called *Rare Books and Research* which was published by the UCLA Library in 1951, and there have been others recently. The one before us is not a monograph reporting new discoveries; it is not a handbook to guide library curators; it really has in it little that is new, except as it places a description of the James Ford Bell Collection into the setting of which is it worthy. On the other hand, it is always good to listen to men who know what they are talking about and who talk about important matters. Many of us will appreciate the trouble which the University of Minnesota has taken to include us in the audience.—*Andrew H. Horn, University of North Carolina Library.*

## Recent Foreign Books on the Graphic Arts, Bibliography, and Library Science

Joseph Gregor, for many years curator of the noteworthy theatre collection of the Austrian National Library, is the editor of a new work that will be unusually useful in all reference collections. It is entitled *Der Schauspielführer*, and, like *Der Romanführer*, is being published by the Hiersemann Verlag of Stuttgart. The first volume (1953; 375 pages) deals with German drama from the Middle Ages to about 1930 and contains meticulous and thoughtful résumés of 274 plays, ranging from the *Tropus von Bamberg* (tenth century) and ending with Carl Sternheim's *Der Snob* (1920). The second volume (1954; 355 pages) covers modern German drama and the first part of the section on drama in the

Romance literatures. In the second volume, there are résumés of 89 modern German plays, of which the great majority were written since World War I; 41 Italian plays from the Middle Ages to Pirandello; 60 Spanish, Portuguese and South American plays, ranging from Rojas' *La Celestina* to the middle of the nineteenth century, with only one twentieth-century title; and French drama from the Middle Ages to around 1910. The third volume, which is scheduled for the spring of 1955, will include modern French drama, Greek, Roman, Scandinavian and Dutch drama, and the older English and American drama. The fourth volume will cover recent English and American drama.