

Review Articles

Bibliotheca Walleriana

Bibliotheca Walleriana, the Books Illustrating the History of Medicine and Science Collected by Dr. Erik Waller and Bequeathed to the Library of the Royal University of Uppsala. A catalogue compiled by Hans Sallander. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell, 1955. 2 v. (Acta Bibliothecae R. Universitatis Upsaliensis v. VIII-IX) Sw.Kr. 200.

Now that the catalog of this remarkable collection of some 21,000 volumes has been published, it is not an exaggeration to say that this is a bibliographical event of a high order. The catalog presents a collection the possession of which has made Uppsala one of the world's centers for research in the history of medicine and science.

The material has been classified systematically. The list of 150 incunabula is followed by the main section, medicine, subdivided into veterinary medicine and dentistry. This material forms volume 1 and includes some 10,800 items. Volume 2, with some 10,000 additional items, is arranged in the following sections: natural sciences in general, chemistry (including alchemy), physics, botany, zoology, astronomy, other natural sciences; history of science in general, history of medicine, and history of natural sciences; biography (general) and biography (special); bibliography, with a sub-section, literature on autographs; and finally, miscellaneous. The largest sections in this second volume are those of history of medicine, with about 3,000 items; biography, about 2,300 items; and bibliography, over 1,300 items.

The material has been arranged alphabetically, with the one exception that works of some of the most important authors whose production has been treated in modern bibliographies were classified in accordance with the bibliographical treatment concerned, and under the numbers there established. For instance, the comprehensive Hippocrates collection has been arranged in

accordance with the catalog of the British Museum.

The titles are given in full. Printers' and publishers' names are indicated for imprints prior to 1700. There are detailed data on number of pages, type pages unnumbered or paginated by a special method, illustrations, number of plates, and supplementary material, if any. Information, when considered of interest, is given in a special type of print, e.g. references to bibliographies, data on provenience, etc. The volume ends with an extremely detailed general index to the entire catalog. The catalog is written in English and contains 56 full-page plates, including 8 color plates. The format is 182x260 mm.

The catalog of the Bibliotheca Walleriana will be welcomed as a valuable reference work by librarians, scholars, book collectors and booksellers. In addition to reliable bibliographic information, the comprehensive index with thousands of entries refers to the literature of a variety of fields in the area of medicine and historical research. No reference library attempting to cover these fields can afford to pass up these volumes.—
T. P. Fleming, Columbia University.

Future of the Book

The Future of the Book: Implications of the Newer Developments in Communication. Papers Presented Before the Twentieth Annual Conference of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, June 20-24, 1955. Edited by Lester Asheim. Chicago: University of Chicago, Graduate Library School [c1955]. 105 p. \$3.75. Published originally in *Library Quarterly*, October 1955.

The subtitle of this collection gives a better indication of its content than does the more provocative wording, "The Future of the Book," for in the main the ten authors do not indulge in prophecy but derive opinions from careful study of past and present realities: they have used the microscope rather

than the telescope. Each contributor has taken a different point of view so that various aspects are placed under scrutiny.

Howard Winger surveys the role the book has played in society, showing its role in the public diffusion of knowledge, specifically in competition with the spoken word. He traces the forms of books through their long history and connects such changes with functional requirements.

Thompson Webb obviously loves fine printing but he is also a realist concerned with prices of books, particularly in small editions. He discusses the methods available for cheap reproduction, points out their limitations and particularly readers' prejudices against them. He concludes that "the development of a different attitude is now more important than the development of new machines" and that "already the typewriter and microphotography have changed the form of the book."

R. H. Wittcoff, speaking on "Developments in Mass Communication," emphasizes that in some instances television has caused a rise in circulation of books. While he points out the achievements of which television is capable, he also puts it in its place, reasoning that responsible citizens who "would see things as a whole" will respect the medium that does this, and "that medium continues to be the book."

Then the speakers on automation take over. Harold Fleisher of International Business Machines presents the fundamentals of the mathematical theory of information and its possible application to words and to books, including the possibility of bringing classification (Dewey Decimal, Library of Congress, or a special new one) under mechanization.

C. D. Gull continues by showing the application of the communication theory to research libraries. He outlines what machines can and cannot do for books and indicates the need for development of machines that would store and retrieve knowledge.

Ralph Shaw points out that mechanization has been applied to various library routines and techniques and the "question is not whether we will mechanize but rather at what level of sophistication of mechanization we will find ourselves ten or twenty

years from now." He feels, however, that there appears to be no probability that any of the mechanical devices available or in sight "will replace the book as a means for storing, retrieving, and presenting the type of materials normally stored and serviced by libraries."

Verner Clapp reviews mechanical devices that have been put to bibliographical use and the valuable tools thus made available. He considers that full advantage has not been taken of existing appliances either from lack of imagination or money.

Lowell Martin weighs the responsibility of educators in preparing the student for an automatic world: to point out to him the relations among libraries, books, and other media of communication; to instruct him in operations of machines used in libraries; to see that he is aware of the implications of machines on various groups in societies; to show him the importance of the role of librarian as an interpreter of knowledge.

Reuel N. Denney, a professor of social sciences, in the final article makes the only really radical statements in the collection. He bewails the enormous multiplication of books and castigates the "semisacredness" attached to printed works, especially in hard covers, for "most hard-cover books are junk." However, the printed word beomes superior to Mr. Denney when paperbound for that decreases the "psychological distance between reader and book." He accuses librarians in general and the previous papers in particular of being too concerned with research materials and not aware enough of the need for providing facilities for leisure time of the great masses who, with automation, will have more of it.

Lester Asheim in outlining the purpose at the beginning and summarizing the results at the end states: "The present can tell us only that changes can and do occur; it does not tell us what those changes will be." He emphasizes that it is the *form* of the book, not its *function*, which may be at stake.

This is a stimulating and thought-provoking series of articles, presented in a lucid style with many interesting side lights. Obviously it is aimed at the large, research library and as such is concerned only with book content; but it does seem to assume that scholars are machines, albeit living. If

one may carp, it is that not much account is taken of the human satisfaction one gets from handling a physical book whether (each in its own time) that be a cuneiform tablet, papyrus roll, vellum codex, or *Library Quarterly*.

It is interesting to examine the opinions in this collection with some advanced in an earlier conference of men who were concerned primarily with book-making, published as *Graphic Forms; the Arts in Relation to the Book* (Harvard University Press, 1949). Two of its contributors who were troubled as to the future of the book offered solutions that might help to preserve it. Merle Armitage felt that the format should be brought up to date with text, picture, and design so conceived that the book's meaning would be expressed and thus help the reader. J. Donald Adams also considered the appeal of design important in competition with other media, but he was more concerned with the quality of the book's content. Mr. Adams felt that the survival of the book depends primarily on the author.

We can be grateful that *The Future of the Book* has been made available to a large circle of readers in such a format that it will be on hand for the next generation to applaud or condemn.—*Bertha M. Frick, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

Catalogus der Niet-Nederlandse Drukken

Catalogus der Niet-Nederlandse Drukken: 1500-1540, aanwezig in de Koninklijke Bibliotheek 's-Gravenhage. Comp. by R. Pennink. The Hague: Koninklijke Bibliotheek, 1955. xviii, 267 p.

Dr. Brummel, director of the Royal Library in The Hague, reminds the reader in his introduction that J. W. Holtrop and M. F. A. G. Campbell had at one time been intimately connected with this important library. Holtrop published in 1856 the catalog of incunabula in the Royal Library. Campbell is well known among specialists as the author of the *Annales de la typographie néerlandaise au XV^e siècle* (1874).

Dutch imprints of the post-incunabula period have been listed with locations, including those of the Royal Library, in Nijhoff and Kronenberg's *Nederlandsche Bibliographie van 1500 tot 1540* (1923-51). The present volume thus supplements these earlier reference books by rounding out the inventory of holdings of the Royal Library, as well as of its affiliates, the Museum Meermanno-Westreenianum, the Nederduits Hervormde Gemeente te Edam, and the Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen.

The *Catalogus* lists, in alphabetical order, 2,373 imprints produced between 1500 and 1540 outside the Low Countries. It goes beyond a mere short-title list. By including ample and very well selected references, by most careful cross referencing, and through its exhaustive imprints index and the apparently complete list of former owners, the catalog deserves to be considered more than a location tool and will prove of considerable value to historians of early printing.

The collection as such is varied in nature and, while containing some very rare books, is not outstandingly rich in any area or in works of any particular author, perhaps with the one exception of Erasmus. Among places of printing Paris, Lyons, Venice, Strasbourg, Basle and Cologne predominate (as would be the case with practically any collection of books produced during the first half of the sixteenth century). Some of the lesser known imprints found in the catalog are Altenburg, Colmar, Reichenau, Angers, Rennes, St. Nicolaus-du-Port, Ortona, Saluzzo and Toscolano. Only four English imprints are listed, while we were surprised to locate through this catalog ten titles printed in Constantinople.

The form of entry frequently differs, quite naturally, from that used in our library catalogs. However, the descriptions will prove useful to rare book catalogers in this country. The excellence of bibliographical details and the form of publication deserve study and imitation.—*Rudolf Hirsch, University of Pennsylvania Library.*

Catalogs of Incunabula

Fifteenth-Century Books in the Library of Howard Lehman Goodhart; with a De-