

letopis' (Newspaper Chronicle). At present it is published weekly, and describes articles and documentary materials carried in newspapers of the U.S.S.R. printed in the Russian language. These articles are indexed on a very selective basis, and emphasis is placed on the central newspapers, such as *Pravda*, *Izvestiia*, *Komsomol'skaia pravda*. Each issue of the *Letopis'* contains a list of the newspapers indexed in that issue.

Letopis' retsenzii (Chronicle of Reviews) has been published since 1934, and appears quarterly. From 1939 to 1941 it was entitled *Bibliografiia retsenzii* (Bibliography of Reviews). It lists reviews and critical analyses from magazines and newspapers pertaining to new or newly reprinted publications, music, maps, theatrical presentations and motion pictures of artistic value. At the end of each issue of the *Letopis'* there is an alphabetic list of authors and titles of the publications reviewed. The index to the fourth issue of each year also summarizes the contents of the preceding three issues, thereby serving as an index for the whole year.—*Rudolph Smits, Library of Congress.*

Libraries in the Southwest

Libraries in the Southwest: Their Growth—Strengths—Needs. Ed. by Lawrence Clark Powell. (Occasional Papers, No. 3) Los Angeles: University of California Library, 1955. 70 p. Paper, apply.

On April 16, 1955, the Rockefeller Foundation, Occidental College, and the California Library Association co-sponsored a conference at Occidental College to consider the growth, strengths, and needs of librarianship and libraries in the Southwest. With the publication of *Libraries in the Southwest: Their Growth—Strengths—Needs*, the papers presented at this conference are now available in an attractive format.

Six papers were given at the conference which some five hundred librarians, trustees, and other friends of southwestern libraries attended. In the first paper, Glenn S. Dumke, dean of the Occidental College faculty, seeks a "Definition of the Southwest." Erna Ferguson presents "A Writer's View of South-

west Libraries" and tells in a graceful manner of the growth of the library in Albuquerque, New Mexico, "from the time when a group of ladies put themselves out and worked hard to get a few books together until we have a highly professional service which is serving beautifully well, and with a very great appreciation of the depth and validity, and the value of all those cultures that have gone to make us what we are."

In the third paper, Edwin Castagna, city librarian at Long Beach, California, surveys "Public Libraries in the Southwest" and finds that "public library service throughout the Southwest, except for most of Southern California, is spotty and unevenly developed." He believes that progress can and will be made if southwestern librarians are willing to pool their knowledge, their resources, their hope, and their courage. In discussing Mr. Castagna's paper, San Diego's city librarian, Clara E. Breed, emphasizes three common problems which face southwestern librarians: a tremendous growth in population without a corresponding increase in library services, inadequate financial support of libraries, and shortage of librarians.

The fourth paper, by Fernando Pesqueira, director of the University of Sonora Library, is in Spanish, but an English summary of his description of the "Libraries of Northwestern Mexico and Their Needs" has been provided. Donald M. Powell, University of Arizona reference librarian, in his discussion of Señor Pesqueira's paper makes some interesting comparisons with development of libraries in northwestern Mexico and in his own state.

Patricia Paylore, University of Arizona assistant librarian, deals in a most interesting manner with "The Effect of Climate and Distance on Libraries in the Arid Regions," with special emphasis on libraries in Arizona. Julia Brown Asplund, who, until her retirement after fifty years of service, was with the New Mexico State Library Extension Agency, describes briefly the way in which New Mexico has developed its State Library Service with "a budget of \$2,000 in 1929 to one of \$100,000 in the appropriations of the legislature of 1955."

The final paper in this volume is Lawrence Clark Powell's discussion of "The Re-

sponsibilities of Southern California in Southwestern Library Development" in which he urges "the establishment of a wholly new kind of regional library education program that will recognize the dual nature of library education: that what we teach is matched in importance by whom we teach it to." If such a library education program materializes and Dr. Powell has anything to do with it, one can be certain fortunately that books will be basic in the program.

After reading these papers, this reviewer has the feeling that, with such librarians as those who spoke at the Occidental College conference, the future of librarianship in the Southwest is in capable hands. The University of California Library is to be commended for making available to the library profession at large these informative papers.—John David Marshall, Alabama Polytechnic Institute Library.

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

The new series of "Beiträge zum Buch- und Bibliothekswesen" edited by Carl Wehmer of Heidelberg and published by Otto Harrassowitz (Wiesbaden) includes three numbers so far and compares favorably with the old "Sammlung bibliothekswissenschaftlicher Arbeiten," formerly published by Harrassowitz in Leipzig.

The first volume, Peter Karstedt, *Studien zur Soziologie der Bibliothek* (1954; 97 p.), is an examination of the library as a sociological phenomenon. The author, an attorney, is disturbed by the fact that there are so few points of contact between librarianship and sociology, and he makes a determined effort to remedy this situation. His work is divided into three chapters: historical sociology, systematic sociology, and the *Wissenssoziologie* of the Max Scheler school. In each Karstedt tries to link the library with its social background, to show the forces that brought the library into existence and the effect that it has on the public it serves.

Karstedt draws on a comprehensive read-

ing of sociological literature as well as the literature of librarianship, and he documents his work thoroughly. If Karstedt seems to defend his approach to librarianship somewhat too vigorously at times, it may be attributed primarily to his zeal in expounding a comparatively new viewpoint. The conclusion of his last chapter, that libraries are one of the chief bulwarks of a free society, may sound a bit commonplace to us, but in central Europe this idea cannot be repeated too frequently.

This interdisciplinary approach to librarianship has certain weaknesses. However, failure to provoke new ideas is not one of them. The sociological interpretation of librarianship might be carried too far in some quarters, but Karstedt keeps it to reasonable proportions.

Rudolf Blum's *Der Prozess Fust gegen Gutenberg; eine Interpretation des Helmaspergischen Notariatsinstrumentes im Rahmen der Frühgeschichte des Mainzer Buchdrucks* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1954; 118 p.; "Beiträge zum Buch- und Bibliothekswesen," 2) is perhaps the most provocative book about prototypography since Wehmer's *Mainzer Probedrucke*. Since this reviewer has found that almost no American librarians are able to identify Ulrich Helmasperger and the famous notarial document named for him, this elementary bit of information might well be repeated here. In the beginning of 1450 Gutenberg borrowed 800 florins from Johann Fust, a citizen of Mainz, for "book production" ("das werck der bucher"), and later he borrowed a similar sum to buy paper, parchment, and ink. Gutenberg put up his printing equipment as security. Since the printer paid no interest, Fust sued him in the fall of 1455 for 2,020 florins to cover capital and interest. The litigation took place in the refectory of the Discalced Monastery of Mainz on 6 November 1455 before Helmasperger (a notary), five witnesses for the plaintiff (including Peter Schöffler), the plaintiff, and his brother Jakob. On Gutenberg's side was the priest Heinrich Günther of St. Christopher's and two of Gutenberg's apprentices. Gutenberg lost the suit, his tools (gezuge), and leadership in the craft he invented.

The notarial instrument is far from a clear-cut record of litigation, and every possible interpretation must be tested with typographical, philological, and psychological stand-