

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

## JOURNAL OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Archiv für Geschichte des Buchwesens.*  
Herausgegeben von der Historischen  
Kommission des Börsenvereins des  
Deutschen Buchhandels. Redaktion:  
Bertold Hack und Bernard Wendt.  
Frankfurt/Main, Buchhändler-Vereinigung. V.I, 1956- (Irregular; v.I appeared 1956-58; v.II, fasc.1-5, in 1958-59; to appear in fascicles according to availability of material, but with some 300-400 pages to appear each year).

If an American group were to undertake a publication such as this archive for the history of the book and the book trade on a comparable scale, it would probably insist on a \$50,000 grant from a foundation and freedom of a couple of expensive professors from all academic duties. The Germans are far too aggressive commercially and work much too hard to be held back by a mere matter of time and money. The imagination of the directors of the Buchhändler-Vereinigung and, most important of all, the competence of two strong editors, have made a go of the *Archiv*. It should be stated in this text and not in a footnote that both editors also must attend to other duties for the serious business of making a living and that they seem to have had no great subsidy for having handled labor of scholarly devotion.

To do justice to all parts of the *Archiv* that have appeared thus far would require far more space than can be devoted to any single title here. Actually, several of the titles in the first two volumes might well have been published as separate monographic works. In the latest issue v.II, Lfg.3-5, 1939, Rudolf Blum's "Vor- und Frühges-

chichte der nationalen Allgemeinbibliographien" is a study which librarians may fail to read at their own peril. In sixty-six closely printed double-columned pages Blum analyzes the genesis of European national bibliography in a compact essay that might have been expanded four times. In the same issue E. H. G. Klöss has an essay on the printing firm of Weigand Han and his heirs in sixteenth-century Frankfurt/Main that runs to almost the same length. From Han's firm came works of Jost Amman, Fr. Dede-kind, Wendel Gut, Jörg Wickram, and many other much sought-after authors.

Reimar Fuchs' "Die Mainzer Frühdrucke mit Buchholzschnitten 1480-1500" (v.II Lfg.1-2, 1958) belongs to that fraction of one per cent of doctoral dissertations that are actually worth a letter press edition. Fully documented and based on meticulous examination of original documents, Fuchs' work is a major contribution both to the history of printing and the history of art. Libraries which are fortunate enough to own Schramm's *Bilderschmuck der Frühdrucke* would be well advised to slip the exchange copy of this Mainz dissertation into the set as an addendum.

In the first volume (now available as a bound work) the collector and the librarian alike will growl at Margarete Zuber's "Die deutschen Musenalmanache und schöngestigten Taschenbücher des Biedermeier 1815-1848" (p. 398-489, in double columns). We have been picking up these things for less than a dollar a piece; but now that their true value as documents of cultural history has been revealed, prices are running into the wild blue yonder. But this complaint is a compliment rather than a reflection on Miss Zuber's detailed and painfully accurate work. This genre as it appeared in Scandanavia, the Low Countries, France, Italy, and Danubia deserves treatment of similar calibre.

It would be pleasant to ramble indefinitely

---

*Dr. Thompson is Director of Libraries,  
University of Kentucky.*

on the various contributions to the *Archiv*, both shorter and longer. The final judgment on this important journal of bibliography can be expressed by the opinion that German is a "must" among the various languages that doctoral candidates for library science degrees are compelled to master.

#### BASES OF TYPOGRAPHY

Julius Rodenberg. *Grösse und Grenzen der Typographie. Betrachtungen über typographische Grundfragen, wie sie sich in der Buchkunst der letzten siebenzig Jahre widerspiegeln*. Stuttgart, C. E. Poeschel Verlag, 1959. 204p.

Julius Rodenberg's lifelong devotion to typographical studies, both historical and theoretical, has found a mature and provocative summation in this handsome volume. He operates on the premise that "typographical design of a book not only presupposes fundamental mastery of the laws of typography and their logical application by the printer, but also makes significant demands on his judgment, his intellectual perception, his taste, and his education" (preface). The first section of the book develops this notion with definitions and a brief history of typography since William Morris' day. The middle (and main) section deals with characteristics and application of printing types, always with a view to the end product, the book as it appears in the reader's hands. The last portion deals with special problems, the illustrated book, drama and poetry, the scholarly book, textbooks, juveniles, and the Bible and religious books. There is a full index.

Rodenberg's mastery of his theme is clearly evident throughout the volume. He speaks of the modern and older masters of typographical design in convincing terms of intimacy, and his knowledge of types and their utility in various types of books and parts of a text is encyclopedic. Here is what may well be considered the most important general work on typography of the mid-twentieth century. There is no other work on the subject in print that can compare with Rodenberg's work in scope, scholarship, clarity, and general readability. Its very modest price (DM 19.50) makes it a highly eligible piece for any typographical collection.

#### DICTIONARY OF BOOK ARTS

Walter Martin. *Kleines Fremdwörterbuch des Buch- und Schriftwesens*. Leipzig, Harrassowitz, 1959. 171p.

This little glossary is a collection of some 2,100 words from all fields of librarianship, the book trade, and the graphic arts. For each word, there is a German phonetic pronunciation, etymology, and definition. Since the great bulk of these words are international in usage, Martin's little glossary will be useful far beyond the limits of East Germany. His selection of entries has been quite broad and few terms of importance in any language (other than German) have been omitted. There is a bibliography of other glossaries in the same field.

#### SAXON ARCHIVES

*Übersicht über die Bestände des Sächsischen Landeshauptarchivs und seiner Landesarchive*. Leipzig, Koehler und Amelang, 1955. 294p. (Schriftenreihe des Sächsischen Landeshauptarchivs Dresden, I).

This collection of essays by Saxon archivists is important not only as a guide to the Saxon Provincial Archives but also as a contribution to the theory of archival administration. The introductory essay by Hellmut Kretschmar traces the history of the Saxon Provincial Archives; and, like all soundly conceived histories of archives and libraries, it is replete with the wisdom of an experienced and competent archivist. As a whole the work is a model presentation of the holdings of a central archival depository and its affiliates. Illustrations and an extensive bibliography add much to its usefulness. If comparable works were available on archives elsewhere in the world, the work of the local historian would be much easier.

#### THE LAUBACH LIBRARY

Ernstotto Graf zu Solms. *Die Laubacher Bibliothek*. Laubach (Oberhessen), Solms-Laubach'sche Bücherstube, 1957. 32p.

Richly illustrated, this little pamphlet describes one of the famous old baronial librar-

ies of Germany. Intact and with a history of over four centuries behind it, the Laubach Library contains representative German books published during its existence, and its holdings are distinguished both for content and for format. Some of the turbulent periods of German history, for example, Reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries, yielded rich collections to Laubach. At the same time a long line of book-loving Counts Laubach consistently added to the holdings in nearly every generation. The small but choice group of fifteenth-century books, the fine collection of early illustrated books, and various other landmark pieces of scholarship and typography make the Laubach Library one of the finest family collections that has survived through the centuries.

#### POLISH LIBRARY JOURNAL

*Roczniki biblioteczne; organ naukowy bibliotek szkół wyższych.* Wrocław, Państwowe wydawnictwo naukowe, v.I, 1957- .

The first two volumes of the "library annals," organ of the Polish research libraries, contains articles of major significance for all branches of librarianship and bibliography. There are numerous illustrations and there are résumés, in both German and French. It is not possible to do full justice to all the articles in the first two volumes in this short note, but a few samples will be some indication of the importance of their serial for research collections in the broad field of bibliographical studies.

Particularly significant among the contributions to the first volume are Marta Burbianka's pioneer study of the bindings in the Breslau Archives from the sixteenth-century and Irena Voisé-Mackiewicz's research in the baroque illustrations of Thorn imprints in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Both are extensively illustrated. Other articles deal with classification of maps, the origins of Polish journalism, and the first Polish manual of library science.

In volume II there are reminiscences of the noted Polish printer Jan Kuglin, the eighteenth-century printing house of Lorenz Mitzler in Warsaw, bibliographical notes on the religious poetry of Elzbieta Druzbacka,

the sale of Hugo Kollataj's manuscripts, Polonica in the Breslau University Library not recorded by Estreicher, Silesian religious song books, statistics of publication of books and journals, the library of the Court of Appeals of Warsaw (now in the University Library in Warsaw), and studies of Polish paper manufacturing in the nineteenth century. There are detailed critical reviews, news notes, and obituaries in both volumes.

#### BOOK COLLECTING IN SWEDEN

J. Viktor Johansson. *Försvar för boksamlaren.* Stockholm, Wahlström och Widstrand, 1958. Ny, omarbetad och utvidgad upplaga. 252p.

The first edition of this book, which appeared in 1943, has long since been out of print, and the new edition is especially welcome in view of the substantial extension of the fourth and concluding essay, "A Librarian Among His Own Books." This essay is based on Johansson's rich experience as an impecunious private collector whose perseverance and learning nevertheless resulted in the accumulation of a choice private library. The collection is largely composed of Swedish literature, but Johansson's account of his attitudes and methods is a fine statement of the common denominator that binds collectors together over the whole world. The three other essays are an apologia for the collector (the title essay), a study of original editions in wrappers (richly illustrated), and notes on five centuries of Swedish literature viewed through the medium of an auction catalog. Johansson is a persuasive, learned, and gently enthusiastic bibliomaniac who is certain to make converts to the book collecting game through his essays.

#### DANISH PUBLISHING HISTORY

H. P. Rohde. *Ernst Bojesen, Storforlaegger i Humør, Kunst og Oplysning.* Copenhagen, Gyldendal, 1958. 247p.

Few more colorful personalities than Ernst Bojesen have ever appeared on the Scandinavian publishing scene. When Bojesen organized Det nordiske Forlag in 1895, he offered a serious threat to Gyldendal, and the competition was ended only in 1903 when the two firms were combined as the

Gyldendanske Boghandel Nordisk Forlag. H. P. Rohde's lively and richly illustrated biography of Bojesen is a significant contribution to the history of European publishing and of Danish cultural life in all its aspects on either side of the turn of the century. Bojesen's early years receive an especially sympathetic treatment, for Rohde has always been able to enliven his studies on the history of the book with a sensitive insight into those human elements which make book history the most important element in general cultural history.

#### THE DANISH ROYAL LIBRARY

*Fund og Forskning i det Kongelige Biblioteks Samlinger*. Vol. V-VI, 1958-59. Copenhagen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, 1959. 239p.

The rich collections of the Danish Royal Library have provided material for four earlier volumes of *Fund og Forskning*, and the possibilities for future volumes are well nigh inexhaustible. Of the sixteen pieces in the current double volume, the most interesting for us is P. M. Mitchell's "The English Imprints of Denmark," a study of the use of English in books printed in Denmark from the eighteenth century to the present. Another foreign contributor is Ilse Schunke, the noted student of Renaissance binding. Her essay deals with the sixteenth-century Flemish binder, Anton Ludwig. Subject matter of other contributions ranges from Mongolian xylographic books to the library of Willibald Pirckheimer. At the end of the volume there is a section of résumés, mostly in English. There are numerous illustrations, including two double-page illustrations in full color of the Manutian *editio princeps* of Aristotle of 1497 with miniatures, possibly by Dürer or executed in Dürer's shop. Ib Magnussen and V. Thorlacius-Ussing study the rôle of Dürer and his employees in producing the miniatures for this Aristotle.

#### GARDBERG HOMAGE VOLUME

*Böcker och människor. Hyllningsskrift till Carl-Rudolf Gardberg 9 September 1958*. Åbo, 1958. 231p. (Skrifter utgivna av Historiska Samfundet i Åbo, VI).

Of many highly competent Finnish librarians who forged a vital and effective library tradition in their native land, none has done more than Carl-Rudolf Gardberg to provide effective library service and to contribute significant original studies on the history of printing in Finland. His monumental study of *Boktrycket i Finland* (2v., 1948-57) is excelled in quality and scope by no other history of printing in any country of the world. The homage volume dedicated to Dr. Gardberg is signed by an impressive list of librarians, and the nineteen essays in the book are as important as the honoree's own work. The concluding article is a bibliography of Gardberg's own writings, some 300 pieces in all.

It would be difficult to do full justice to the various essays. Krister Gierow's notes on the origins of the University of Lund Library, Tonnes Kleberg's essay on an early eighteenth-century teacher of modern languages in Uppsala and Åbo, and Jorma Valinkoski's study of the fate of the carelessly lent Åbo manuscript are the solid mahogany of bibliographical scholarship. Henrik Grönroos' investigations of eighteenth-century book auctions in Åbo and Bengt Bengtsson's notes on early eighteenth-century printing techniques will be footnoted carefully in all scholarly investigations of these fields. The Gardberg homage volume will be a familiar reference in the notes of future bibliographical scholarship.

#### GERMAN CATALOGING RULES

*Der alphabetische Katalog in allgemeinbildenden Bibliotheken. Anweisungen*. Teil I: Regeln. Teil II: Beispielsammlung. 3, veränderte Auflage. Leipzig, VEB Verlag für Buch- und Bibliothekswesen. 1958. 2v.

Simple, logical, and well organized, these highly abbreviated cataloging rules for East German public libraries also have lessons for research libraries in other parts of the world. The first volume deals with rules, and the second is devoted solely to examples.

The rules are direct and unequivocal (but, as always, still differing from our use of corporate entry) and, in general, the language and intent are not subject to misinterpretation.