

# Review Articles

## Sound Building Advice

*Planning the College and University Library Buildings: A Book for Campus Planners and Architects.* By Ralph E. Ellsworth. Boulder, Colo.: The Author, 1961. 102p. \$5.00.

Ralph Ellsworth has published a very useful and timely book which should prove to be of considerable value to officials of colleges and universities who are planning new library buildings. And there are a great many new buildings now in the planning stage. This short book covers every facet of the planning process. It does not attempt to describe in detail all parts of a library building. Ellsworth has kept the various types of readers in mind throughout. This includes librarians who are familiar and those who are unfamiliar with library building planning problems. He has also kept constantly in mind architects of both types—those who have had library building experience and those who have not. Although he assumes nothing—or at last very little—on the part of the reader, he nevertheless manages not to offend the intelligence of the oriented.

It is well written, and although Ellsworth claims that the book is a “personal” document, he has remained extremely objective in nine-tenths of the book.

Readers of reviews on library-building books may grow weary of being constantly reminded that Keyes Metcalf is working on a definitive book for college and university library buildings. Nevertheless, it is necessary to bear this in mind; all of us (and this includes Ellsworth) should and do remain aware of that fact. There are a lot of unanswered questions which we hope the Metcalf book will answer. It may be several years before that book is completed, but meanwhile there are millions of dollars worth of academic library structures which must be planned, and I am sure others will share my enthusiasm for Ellsworth's having gone ahead with this excellent publication, since it gives planners so much sound direction and advice.

The author has a fine sense of what is generally accepted and what is an exception. This is most important, especially when the book is to be used by people without experience. He faithfully points out in each case what he considers an Ellsworth idea as compared to generally accepted practice. If he had not done this, the book could be dangerous in that his own ideas on library operation and building might be assumed by the uninitiated to the standard practice. Some readers of course will want to adopt the exception, but they should know when they are doing so.—*William H. Jesse, University of Tennessee Library.*

## The First Freedom

*The First Freedom: Liberty and Justice in the World of Books and Reading.* Edited by Robert B. Downs. Chicago: ALA, 1960. xiii, 469p. \$8.50.

Robert B. Downs has brought together a fascinating and masterful anthology of recent writings on the censorship of books. The opening and closing sections present a broad definition of issues in the perspective of history and of the future. Other chapters present the principal judicial opinions on the censorship of books, a variety of writings on private pressure groups, studies of the problem of defining obscenity, essays on political censorship, collections of statements by authors and writers' groups and by librarians and library associations, a group of essays on the censorship of textbooks, and two illuminating assemblages of writings on censorship in Ireland and under Fascism and Communism.

The editor has chosen to confine his selections to British (including Irish) and American writings since 1900 and to those dealing specifically with the censorship of books. Within those limitations this search has been thorough and his selections admirable. Many of the selections are conveniently available nowhere else; all of them benefit from being

brought into association with each other and with Mr. Downs' stimulating and illuminating notes. Altogether it is an invaluable, indeed an indispensable collection. No other anthology approaches it in its field.

One can regret that the limitations imposed by the editor exclude some earlier statements of basic principle, as in the writings of Milton, Williams, Jefferson, and Mill, but they are easily available elsewhere. A greater latitude in including writings, especially judicial opinions, relating to newspapers and films and even comic books, when they are applicable in principle to books, would have permitted including opinions in such cases as *Near v. Minnesota* (a newspaper case establishing the "no prior restraint" principle), the *Miracle* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* film cases, and the *Winters* case relating to comic books, all of which have had a significant role in protecting the freedom of books. "Admittedly," says the editor, the book "has a bias, reflecting the liberal view, as contrasted to the advocates of censorship." This bias, which I wholly applaud, together with the paucity of intellectually respectable defenses of censorship, has led to the failure to include any vigorous advocacy of censorship. Perhaps such advocacy has a place, even in a volume designed wholly to oppose censorship, if for no other reason than that there is hardly a better way to illumine the values of freedom than to allow a Comstock or a McCarthy or even a better-intentioned Postmaster General to advance the arguments for censorship.

These are trifling additions to wish for, however, in view of the abundance afforded in Mr. Downs' generous selection.

This volume is published by ALA, using the remainder of a grant from the Fund for the Republic that had supported the Freedom and Justice Awards. It is altogether fitting that ALA should be its publisher and Mr. Downs its editor. No professional association in the United States has more clearly distinguished itself in the defense and enlargement of the first freedom than ALA. And its struggle has been not only gallant, but also well-planned and successful. The ALA has not only fought battles for freedom; it has usually won them. That this is true is in major part due to the courage and judgment of Robert B. Downs. As president of the ALA during the McCarthy nightmare, as

later chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of that association, and now as editor of this volume, he has distinguished his procession as well as himself.—*Dan Lacy, American Book Publishers Council.*

## Cataloging Principles

*The Principles of Cataloguing.* By L. Jolley, London: Crosby Lockwood & Son Ltd., 1960. 147 p. 15s.

This little volume is so timely that those librarians particularly concerned with catalog code revision might wish it had appeared a few months, or even years, earlier. This is not to imply that its interest is limited to a few catalogers or even to catalogers only. In spite of its being at times pedantic, most librarians would find something of value in *The Principles of Cataloguing*. It is well written, although some of the idioms and choice of words sound strange to the American ear. "Whilst" and "amongst" indicate that the author was not educated in America. Mr. Jolley is an Australian, writing at the University of Glasgow, where a "programme for the revision of the catalogue" became the source of this work. Mr. Jolley also acknowledges his indebtedness to Charles A. Cutter, Seymour Lubetzky, and Andrew Osborn. In the preface, he says: "Cataloguing is one of those fields of human endeavor in which it may be safely assumed that if an idea is worth having, it will have occurred to more than one person."

Unquestionably the prime importance of Mr. Jolley's study is his discussion of topics under scrutiny by the ALA Catalog Code Revision Committee. The first chapter, "The Function of the Catalogue," presents one of the controversial topics to be discussed at the IFLA International Conference on Cataloguing Principles in October. He makes the statements, "The function of the catalogue is to interpret the library to the reader" and "The catalogue is an instrument of communication" and then repeats a few pages later, "The object of the catalogue is to serve the needs of the reader" and "The catalogue is an extremely complex communication system. It must therefore be based on existing habits." Throughout this chapter, he reiter-