

# Review Articles

## Report on Conservatism

*The American Right Wing.* By Ralph E. Ellsworth and Sarah M. Harris. (Occasional Papers, number 59) Urbana: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, 1960. 50p. \$1.00.

Subtitled "A Report to the Fund for the Republic, Inc.," *The American Right Wing* presents a survey, of greater breadth than depth, of the literature of conservatism during the middle years of the last decade. Owing to the death of Miss Harris in 1959, the study has not been carried beyond 1958. Consequently, it does not discuss the supposed revitalization of conservatism which followed the reelection in that year of Senator Goldwater, and which came to light in the sharpened conflict within the Republican Party, in the widely publicized new wave of conservatism among university undergraduates, and in the fuss over the John Birch Society. Nor do the authors intend to provide a history of Right Wing movements or a full exposition of Right Wing philosophies.

The authors *do* provide a high-spirited dash through a wilderness of rightist organizations, publications, and spokesmen, and enliven some occasionally dreary conservative strictures with wry observations of their own. No semblance of pale neutrality will be found in the body of the report, for their attitudes, ranging from amusement to contempt, are evident throughout, in spite of what seems to be a protestation of impartiality among Mr. Ellsworth's scholarly disclaimers in the Preface.

Rightist groups and publications are treated in turn according to certain clusters of ideas. These ideas are overwhelmingly negative in tone: the Right Wing is anti-Communist, anti-union, anti-integrationist, and sometimes anti-Semitic; it is opposed to progressive education, liberalized immigration, foreign aid, the Supreme Court, and the United Nations; and it is especially cognizant of the many threatening features of a strong and active federal government. The

Right Wing favors decentralized government, individualism, and Chiang Kai-shek.

Among the diverse bodies mentioned in the report may be found such "moderate" groups as the medical and bar associations which defend the status quo insofar as their special interests are affected, together with such extreme examples of the psychotic right as the Christian Nationalists and the Anglo-Israelites. The reader is rightly warned, in both text and notes, to beware imputing the notions of a few groups to all the organizations cited.

*The American Right Wing* is spotted with many small errors caused by careless typing. It is in large part a bibliographical essay, but its utility is diminished by the lack of a separate bibliography and an index. With an index, the work would be a more useful adjunct to the brief listings in the *First National Directory of "Rightist" Groups, Publications, and Some Individuals*.

From this lively account of American conservatism and Right Wing extremism in 1958, the reader should gain a fuller understanding of the several viewpoints at one end of our political spectrum, and a better acquaintance with the voluminous, but often little known, literature of these movements. The authors perform a further service by placing in perspective such curious items in the rightist canon as the opposition to mental health programs and the campaigns against fluoridation of water.—Richard Zumwinkle, *University of California, Los Angeles*.

## Manuscript Inventory

*American Literary Manuscripts; a Checklist of Holdings in Academic, Historical and Public Libraries in the United States.* Compiled and published under the auspices of the American Literature Group, Modern Language Association of America, by the Committee on Manuscript Holdings. Austin, Tex.: University of Texas, [1960]. xxviii, 421p. \$5.00.

Many guides to manuscript collections and

resources of libraries in the United States have been published. There are the Historical Records Survey's *Guides to Manuscript Collections* covering the holdings in various states; Robert B. Downs's *American Library Resources*, giving the holdings of libraries as listed in bibliographies of various kinds; and, more recently, the National Historical Publications Commission's *Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States*, as shown in collections, and the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* being compiled on cards by the Library of Congress. There have also been many guides of a more specialized nature to individual library or subject collections, but there has been little until now to cover the manuscript materials of American authors in very great detail.

This situation is alleviated to a large extent by the work of the Committee on Manuscript Holdings, under the chairmanship of Joseph Jones of the University of Texas.

The purposes of this publication are: ". . . to assist scholars, librarians, dealers, and collectors in locating primary source materials relating to American authors . . . , encourage and facilitate the enlargement of some fairly extensive but incomplete special author collections," and to ". . . stimulate some agency or institution to establish a country-wide manuscript inventory and reporting service." At least the first of these purposes has been accomplished, although much remains to be done by way of assistance. The manuscript holdings of 287 libraries for more than 2350 American authors are represented in this book.

The checklist is an alphabetical listing of authors, giving dates when available. For each author, holdings of various libraries are given in eight categories: manuscripts, journals or diaries, letters by an author, letters to an author, documents relating to an author, books containing marginalia by an author, special collections relating to an author, and manuscript material attributed to an author but of uncertain authenticity. The entries are symbolized to indicate the nature of the holdings, the extent of the collection, and the location of the material.

The limitations of such a work, in spite of careful preparation, are readily admitted and explained in the introduction. Anyone working with manuscript materials soon becomes aware of the difficulties in arranging

and cataloging such collections just to make them accessible to the researcher. The listing covers only American libraries and has not attempted to include the many valuable holdings of individuals, dealers, publishing houses, literary agents, and foreign libraries. Thus, *American Literary Manuscripts* is only a beginning in the constant search for this type of material, but a valuable beginning for the librarian who wishes to assist the scholar in his research.—George M. Bailey, *Northwestern University Library*.

## Tennessee Library Lectures

*University of Tennessee Library Lectures; Numbers Ten, Eleven, and Twelve.* Edited by Lanelle Vandiver. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee, 1961. 50p. On request.

The University of Tennessee is to be commended for this lecture series on library problems, which reaches the wide world every three years in a modest volume. Tennessee is one of the very few institutions which invites distinguished librarians to speak to a general university audience on strictly professional problems of library administration and operation.

Benjamin Powell's lecture (1958), "Sources of Support for Libraries in American Universities" deals principally with support other than that from direct university appropriation. Its principal contribution to library literature is the analysis of types of outside aid (gift of money, endowment, books) which came to a number of libraries during 1956/57. There is a separate analysis of donations to institutions with "Friends of Libraries" and those without. The latter group received much less, but Powell states that "one can only speculate about the percentage of these differences that should be attributed to the presence of organized groups of friends."

The lecturer views with concern the gen-