

the early nineteenth-century Daniel Macmillan ("You never surely thought you were merely working for bread!") to the brash Bennett Cerf speaking before the New York Society of Security Analysts in 1960 on publishing as big business, complete with profitable stock issues and mergers.

Thirty-six United States and English publishers in an approximate chronological sequence speak their minds—somewhat repetitively—on how they got started (many in almost hereditary dynasties), how to deal with authors, printers, agents, critics, and why they publish the lists that represent their names. Most write a neat, workmanlike (if uninspired and often pedestrian) prose, uniformly disclaiming any pretensions to being authors, which speaks well for their editorial abilities. Some few, excepting the versatile Michael Sadleir, are authors *manqué* and write with style, grace, and that incisive, witty rightness of phrase that makes literature of exposition. Curtice Hitchcock, John Farrar, and Fredic Warburg, had they taken the other side of the counter, should have found publishers, but I use a hesitant "should" advisedly. Their contributions, with novelist-critic-bibliographer-publisher Sadleir's, lend a pleasantly critical and literary flavor. The latter half of the volume, indeed, shows a marked increase in polemic: what is good literature, what is worth publishing, concern with censorship, and editorial and social responsibility. It is good to have in one place four of Frederic G. Melcher's editorials from *Publishers' Weekly* on books, publishing, and reading. Pervading all contributions is the acknowledged fascination of books and reading that makes publishers and librarians amateurs of the word. Hence this is a required handbook for all librarians, lest they neglect understanding why the books being published are published and that a publisher's list reflects a personality, often of an individual, who should be known.

The delights of the book are so many and one's gratitude to Mr. Gross so great for his editorial interest and industry, that the criticisms, excepting on the index, are somewhat fruitless yearning for what, probably impossible, might have been. The index is lamentable. Granted, the excerpts are from works to which the reader can turn hopefully for an adequate index. From another

publisher, the librarian might be less indignant at the one page excuse offered as an index.

Repetitiveness in the excerpts—we are assured by almost every publisher that manuscripts *are* read—unwarrantedly suggests to the innocent reader that the matters of concern to publishers are narrowly circumscribed. The denial comes, but often embedded in the expected and necessary concerns. This repetitiveness and emphasis on detail is probably ineluctable in an historically arranged anthology, giving space to each publisher's statement of creed. It suggests that a topical anthology, simply pointing up agreement or difference if not outright conflict, might be a valuable production. We might, however, end up with Sir Stanley Unwin again! The tantalizing passages on the histories of several publishing houses demand the preparation of a comprehensive history. If this anthology should inspire the needed scholarly and popular books on publishers and publishing, it will have more than justified the compiler's efforts. Librarians and students will be lastingly grateful for this convenient anthology, despite carping at the index.—*Betty Rosenberg, School of Library Service, University of California, Los Angeles.*

Slavic Collections

Russian and East European Publications in the Libraries of the United States. By Melville J. Ruggles and Vaclav Mostecky. (No. 11, Columbia University Studies in Library Service.) New York: Columbia University Press, 1960. 396p. \$10.00.

In 1957 the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies asked the Association of Research Libraries to participate in a review it was conducting "of the entire program of Russian-area studies." The committee engaged the talents of Melville J. Ruggles and Vaclav Mostecky for this assignment. The authors, in turn, have called on their own knowledge and that of other librarians to assemble in the present study a formidable array of fact and experience connected with

the collecting and handling of Slavic and East European materials.

The book is divided into three parts: 1) building a collection, which embraces selection, acquisition, and finance; 2) organizing and exploiting the materials, which discusses the problems of cataloging and bibliographical control; and 3) an analysis of a national survey of Slavic materials conducted by the authors, and a chapter entitled "The Quality of the Russian Collections." East Europe is defined as "those parts of Europe which are at present under Soviet domination." The exception is East Germany. The latter, along with Yugoslavia, is not considered to present the same acquisition problems as the Soviet Union and other satellite areas. Yugoslavia, however, is given rather full treatment.

In the first two sections there is much ancillary information which gives this work the character of a guide to the needs and responsibilities for setting up and administering a Slavic collection. One problem thoroughly discussed involves the use of a variety of bibliographical material and the assignment of responsibility for selection. The authors introduce us to, and evaluate, the coverage of current East European national bibliographies. American and West European dealers' catalogs are also described. In each instance, the factor of speed in ordering is emphasized. Both here and abroad the demand is high for almost everything published. The interesting point is made that "a great majority of research libraries in the United States" have no planned selection policy. To provide for a balanced, long-range acquisition policy in those libraries acquiring more than one thousand titles annually in East European languages, the presence of a Slavic bibliographer is recommended. Ideally, his role would serve as a bridge between the library and the faculty, assimilating the best of each. The authors do not give more than a sentence to his qualifications, out of a paragraph outlining his duties. The book should provoke further discussion of this subject.

In another area, there is unabashed plugging for more national cooperation in the acquisition of Slavic materials. A type of Slavic Farmington Plan is envisaged, which would achieve coverage by subject, and, in the smaller countries of Eastern Europe, by

language. Librarians were reported as taking "a very negative view" of such a program. They maintain that so few libraries collect in the area the burdens on an individual library would be excessive. In this post-Sputnik world, such an argument is becoming less and less valid. Institutions across the United States are creating new programs in Slavic studies, and the acquisition efforts of their libraries can and should be coordinated to this objective.

This is the first survey of existing collections of East European materials in American libraries, and covers holdings reported in 1958. "The primary sources of data for the present survey were . . . a questionnaire sent to 1,203 libraries, a series of interviews with librarians and library users, correspondence with East European publishing houses and libraries, correspondence with international organizations, and informal discussions with individuals active in some aspect of the East European publications field, including procurement, distribution, control, and use."

Judging from the analysis of the returns to the questionnaire, no large, significant Slavic collection in the United States was missed. The only possible exceptions might be science and technology collections "attached to classified research projects carried out by government agencies directly or contracted to private industrial concerns, institutes, and universities." The authors do state, however, that their survey is focused primarily on the social sciences and humanities.

The last chapter estimates the quality of the Russian collections in the United States by a check against a composite of selections from particular Tsarist Russian, Soviet, and pre-World War II East European bibliographies. One interesting result shows that the Cyrillic union catalog reflects only about one third of the actual Russian holdings in eight of the leading libraries. Otherwise, the results are mainly a show of strength among the large collections, with the conclusion that anywhere from two out of three, to four out of five titles of research value are in American libraries.

Over-all, the work is a distinct service to the Slavic community. The problems it raises are many—more than it solves. But it did not set out to solve them all. Individual institutions or their representatives will differ with particular conclusions, or with the methods

of arriving at them, because experiences will differ. But if the function of this book is to outline the whole picture and to provide stimulation to thought and action, then it should be the function of its readers to elucidate particular details as they understand them.—Robert A. Karlowich, *University of Illinois Library*.

Great Books

Molders of the Modern Mind. By Robert B. Downs. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1961. 396p. \$6.00; paper, \$2.25.

Ten years ago I read a library copy of Crane Brinton's *Ideas and Men* and was delighted to find that it brought into some order scattered bits of information I had picked up over the years. At the end the "Suggestions for Further Study" giving references to original sources in connection with each chapter inspired me to buy my own copy of the book. I was too optimistic when I thought I could read those suggested sources; I never even got through Thucydides, the first for the chapter on the Greeks!

When I examined the table of contents of *Molders of the Modern Mind* I hastily found that deserted copy of *Ideas and Men* and began to compare the titles suggested for the chapters from VIII on with the list of those reviewed in *Molders of the Modern Mind*. Thirty-two of them were on the Brinton lists which included only seventeen others for the matching chapters. Brinton warned his readers: "An intellectual history is inevitably in part a series of private judgments made by the man who writes it. Unless that man is sure that he knows the right interpretation always—and this writer is not so sure—he will do better to afford his readers constant chances to go through the original stuff of intellectual history, and to make up their own minds on many matters." Mr. Downs ends his introduction: "Approximately three hundred titles were recommended for consideration by various consultants. It is patent that a unanimous verdict is exceedingly difficult to obtain on any given book. Selection is unavoidably a subjective matter, and responsi-

bility for the final list has been borne entirely by the author."

With due respect to both these statements I am grateful to have been brought closer to knowing 111 books that any librarian should want to include in his reading experience, even though in large part vicariously. Mr. Downs gets into the approximately one-thousand-word quota for each title a summary of its contents, a significant quotation or so as a sample of the style of writing, something about the author and his contemporaries, as well as an estimate of his affect on later thought. For instance, in his account of Thoreau's *Resistance to Civil Government* he includes the story of its motivation of Ghandi half a century later.

The titles are grouped under four headings: "Renaissance and Reformation," "Enlightenment, Reason and Revolution," "The Bourgeois Century," and "Making the Modern World." Each section is introduced by a short essay that fills in the contemporary background effectively, and incidentally makes the reader aware of the enormous scholarship of the man who has written *Molders of the Modern Mind*. This book should certainly give a lift to those librarians who cringe when they hear the accusation that there are too many administrators and too few bookmen in modern libraries, for here is one outstanding administrator who has obviously found time to read.

Mr. Down's 1956 volume, *Books That Changed the World*, included sixteen of the same authors he discusses in *Molders of the Modern Mind*, though in two instances other titles are used: *Das Kapital* by Marx instead of the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels, and Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* instead of *Civilization and Its Discontents*. The earlier book gives more material on each title and uses more quotations, but the essentials are all included in the shorter summaries, and the flavor is maintained. Several of the titles mentioned in the introduction to the first book as having been considered for inclusion and rejected "for one reason or another" are found in the second book, suggesting that the research done for the first led into the more extensive coverage in the second. A number of historians and critics are cited in the essays introducing the four sections of *Molders of the Modern Mind*, among them Brinton whose *Ideas and Men* is quoted.