Selected Reference Books of 1961-1962

By EUGENE P. SHEEHY

INTRODUCTION

This article continues the semiannual series1 edited by Constance M. Winchell over the past several years. As is generally known, Miss Winchell has recently retired from her position as reference librarian at Columbia, and librarians will be pleased to learn that she is currently engaged in preparing an eighth edition of the Guide to Reference Books, tentatively scheduled for publication in 1965 (a fourth supplement to the seventh edition will appear early this year).

Though it appears under my name, the list is actually a project of the reference department of the Columbia University libraries, and notes are signed with the initials of individual staff members.2 The purpose of the list remains the same: to present a selection of recent scholarly and foreign works of interest to reference workers in university libraries. It does not pretend to be either well-balanced or comprehensive. Code numbers (such as A11, IA26, 2S22) have been used to refer to titles in the Guide3 and its supplements.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


"The United States Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) was established in 1957 to service the various units of the federal government with translations of unclassified foreign documents, scholarly works, research reports and other selected source materials. . . ." (Introd.) A partial aid toward bibliographic control of this vast body of mimeographed materials is now available. The two volumes contain photoreproductions of catalog cards (reduced to 1 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches) for the translations, arranged in sequence by JPRS number. By normal library standards the amount of cataloging on each card is limited. For translations of single journal articles there is usually the abbreviated journal title, year and number (without pagination), but many cards contain only a brief descriptive title in English, such as "Selected Economic Translations on Eastern Europe" without any indication of date or source. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and one cards are reproduced. This compares with approximately ten thousand JPRS items entered in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, according to the information in the introduction. There is no index. Full size (3 x 5) cards may be purchased "for area files, subject files and contract number files." Contract number series provide a certain amount of subject control.—E.B.

PERIODICAL INDEXES


This is a cumulated index of authors and sub-
jects in one alphabet covering quarterly issues of ten years. Citation is to periodical, with title abbreviated, and gives volume, date, and inclusive paging. Form headings group book reviews, poems, etc. Spot checking shows that more journals are cited than those in the "List of Periodicals Indexed" and, while the Foreword points out that coverage of titles has necessarily changed during the ten-year span of the cumulation, there is no indication of which volumes and dates of a periodical have been indexed. The work is set in a double-column page, photo-offset from typed copy with type size considerably reduced.—R.K.


Contents: v.1-4, A-Large, C.

Employing the publisher's now familiar format of photo-reproduction from catalog cards, this set (to be in eight volumes) is compiled from index cards prepared at the library of the Pan American Union and will include "approximately 250,000 entries of authors, subjects and other secondary entries. Until 1951 only entries by subject were made, except for well-known authors and authors of articles having literary value." (Pref.) Indexing was on a broad, selective basis from an estimated three thousand different periodical titles mainly of Latin American origin. While subject coverage is wide, "articles in the economic, political, governmental, social and cultural fields have been given preference," and in general are "related to aspects and activities concerning Latin America and to contributions by Latin American authors." (Pref.) —E.S.

Dissertations


Since July 1961 the monthly issues of Dissertation Abstracts have carried a subject index, listing each dissertation "under one or more subject headings as assigned by the Library of Congress from an examination of the abstract." (Introd.) This issue represents a cumulation of the monthly author and subject indexes for volume 22.

Much as one may admire the idea behind, and the execution of, the subject index, one can but lament its limitations: i.e., the fact that it is merely an index to Dissertation Abstracts, not a subject index to the annual list of American doctoral dissertations. Graduate students (the one group which can be expected to make most intensive use of the index) must, therefore, be clearly warned that this does not provide a comprehensive guide to completed doctoral research, and that the annual lists must still be scanned title-by-title for the dissertation output of several of our largest degree-granting institutions. —E.S.

Philosophy


Arranged like a thesaurus, this dictionary lists words in groups under a main root-word heading with cross references to that heading from derivative forms. For example, when looking up "existentialisme" one finds "existence et derivatives,—voir Etre III." Each entry contains the etymological origin of the word, definitions labeled according to the area of usage, and appropriate illustrative quotations from literature. The definitions seem clear and well constructed; the dictionary should prove useful to both the layman and the scholar.—E.A.


Based largely on the bibliographic listings in the periodical Pensamiento, this is a bibliography of writings on philosophy by Spanish and Spanish-American authors, and by others writing on Spanish philosophical themes. It lists some ten thousand books, pamphlets and periodical articles (the list of abbreviations includes sixty-seven journal titles) for the period indicated. The work is in two sections: Parte Histórica and Parte Sistemática. The first is arranged chronologically by historical period, with subdivisions for countries and for individual philosophers. The second part has separate sections for logic, metaphysics, ethics, etc. There is an author index.—E.S.

Religion


Similar to The English Hexapla (Guide K68), but without the Greek text, the Octapla "contains on facing pages the full text of eight English translations of the New Testament, from Tyndale to the Revised Standard Version. It is designed to exhibit the development of the Tyndale-King James tradition, both in the succession of translations from 1525 to 1611 and in the revisions from 1870 to 1960." (Introd.) Versions represented are Tyndale's final revision pub-
lished 1535; the 1540 edition of the Great Bible (Coverdale); the second edition, 1562, of the Geneva Bible; the 1572 revision of the Bishops' Bible, published 1602; the Rheims first edition, 1582; the critical edition of the King James version published 1873; the American Standard version of 1901; and the Revised Standard version as published in 1960.—E.S.


Contents: Fascicle 1—, A—Aca.

Designed as a scholarly and definitive work and produced under the aegis of the government of Ceylon, "the Encyclopaedia aims at giving a comprehensive account of the origins of this World-Religion and of the developments that have taken place during a period of more than 25 centuries." (Pref.) It is expected that when complete, hopefully within ten years, the work will comprise some fifteen thousand pages. Arrangement is in dictionary form with articles on all aspects of Buddhist thought, history, and civilization, including personal and place names, literary titles, and, especially, religious and moral concepts. Articles vary in length; many of the longer ones are signed in full, others with initials only. For some, bibliographies are appended, but in many others references are cited only within the text. Cross references are employed, especially to refer from a common English term to the more precise colloquial word.—J.N.W.


More scholarly than popular in tone, "this is not in any sense a revision of any older work. Each of its 2300 articles has been specifically written for this volume." (Pref.) The range of articles (which vary from two lines in length to several pages) includes names mentioned in the Bible and topics relevant to Biblical study, e.g., archaeology, geography, chronology, phrases, objects, ideas. "No attempt has been made, however, to impose a rigid uniformity... or to exclude the occasional expression of different viewpoints." (Pref.) Pronunciation is not given. Each article is initialed; a bibliography follows the longer articles. There is a list of contributors, many illustrations, tables, indexes, and maps. Similar in approach and arrangement to Allmen's Companion to the Bible (Supplement 3K29) and Harper's Bible Dictionary (Supplement 1K15), its more extensive coverage resembles the Catholic Biblical Encyclopedia (Supplement 3K33).—E.J.R.

FOLKLORE


Texts and research in the field of Russian folklore published in the Soviet Union between 1945 and 1959 are arranged in a classified bibliography, with references to reviews. There are indexes of personal names, geographical names, and periodical sources.—E.D.

SOCIAL SCIENCES


Briefly sketched herein are the lives of some four hundred nineteenth and twentieth century German politicians, poets, editors, workers, intellectuals, etc., associated with socialist movements in Germany. Most entries are brief (one-half to one column), with somewhat longer entries for such personages as Luxemburg, Kautsky, Maix. Information given includes dates, chief political affiliation, and relative importance in social movements. Few bibliographic references are given. A section of about one hundred and twenty-five portraits at the end of the volume helps to show what manner of men—and women—these were. The volume will, of course, be of greatest use in identifying the more obscure names.

No information is given as to contents of the proposed second volume.—E.J.R.

STATISTICS


This is the first of a series of projected volumes to include "papers (mostly in Western languages) on statistical method, statistical theory and probability from the sixteenth century up to the end of 1958." (Pref.) The next scheduled volume is to cover the years 1940-49. The work is international in scope, but no books are included, only articles. Titles of articles in non-Roman alphabets (and sometimes those in languages other than French or German) are given only in translation, with indication of the original language. Arrangement is by author only, with no classification and no subject index.—J.N.W.
Dictionaries


Contents: Vol. I, pt.1 (A-M), English-German. Long considered one of the best bilingual dictionaries available, Muret-Sanders has its reputation enhanced by this latest edition. It is an entirely new dictionary both in format and content, having abandoned the Gothic type faces of the former edition for legible, modern print, and having provided new definitions for all 180,000 entries.

The editors pride themselves on their compilation of an "encyclopedic dictionary" of British and American English usage, presenting the grammatical context, levels of usage, and the colloquial idioms related to each word. The vocabulary, which includes many recently-coined terms, has been selected from all aspects of practical life and all branches of science. In addition, Volume II is to contain a list of commonly-used British and American abbreviations, as well as English proper names and their pronunciations.

Despite an unfortunate revision which has removed the conjugation and irregular verb charts that are so valuable to the student, and has placed verbal peculiarities with the definition, Muret-Sanders is still an extremely useful aid for any combined study of English and German.—E.A.


Contents: v.1, Italian-English. 899p.

Long awaited, this dictionary is a major contribution to Italian studies. Its primary aim is "inclusiveness and elucidation" of vocabulary both for the literary scholar and the student of the spoken language. Obsolete and rarely used words (which are marked as such) are present in abundance, as well as many terms from specialized vocabularies. In the interest of offering the most current and correct translations, the editors have relied heavily on the advice and assistance of subject specialists in the construction of definitions and in the selection of English equivalents. Since stress is on usage, many definitions include illustrative phrases where simple word-for-word translation would be ambiguous. In addition, explanations for cultural concepts peculiar to Italy are frequently included. Although etymology is not usually given, etymologically-related words are often arranged in groups with cross references from the regular alphabetical listings. There may be some objection to this grouped arrangement which requires somewhat more time of the reader in his search for definitions. The dictionary is, however, an excellent linguistic achievement and we look forward to the publication of the companion volume.—E.A.


"A complete revision and resetting of the New Edition of 1946" (Pref.) which, while following the traditional Roget arrangement of grouping words according to ideas, has expanded the original thousand categories by forty, introduced modern scientific and technical terminology, dropped outmoded words, omitted the quotation section, and enlarged the index to include many more words and phrases. In all, "this edition contains about 50 per cent new material." (Pref.) New features include designation of parts of speech in both index and text, and lists of specific objects within a general category, e.g., names of trees, languages, etc. Boldface type indicates throughout the text the most commonly needed words. A variety of type marks divisions and subdivisions on a well printed, double-column page.—R.K.

Literature


A collective effort of ten notable French literary critics, this selective dictionary of the contemporary intellectual scene is divided into two parts. The first part comprises nine critical evaluations of twentieth century trends in French literature; the second constitutes a biographical dictionary of 130 French writers. Ranging in length from ten lines to ten pages, these analytical studies include bio-bibliographical information as well as succinct observations on the writer's style and influence in the over-all picture of contemporary literature. Articles are signed, portraits are included, and the general index lists all literary figures mentioned in the first, historical, part as well as those writers given attention in depth in the second. Unfortunately, the work appears to be useful primarily as a ready reference tool since the collaborators have limited themselves to writers already figuring prominently in other reference works for this field.—V.H.

About a thousand prose fiction works set in an imaginary future period and published in the United Kingdom from 1644 to 1960 are included in this chronological checklist. Each entry gives year of publication, author’s last name and initial, title, publisher and paging. A short descriptive annotation follows. English translations of foreign books are included, with translator indicated when known. Author and title indexes, a short bibliography of sources and an addenda list (of titles for which information was received while the book was in press) complete the volume.—R.K.


In some respects this is a kind of epitome of the publisher’s Dictionnaire des œuvres . . . , Dictionnaire biographique des auteurs . . . , and Dictionnaire des personnages, since a high percentage of the articles represents condensation or reworking of entries in those volumes. It is also a companion to them, including as it does articles on literary terms, etc., not treated in the other volumes, and sometimes adding up-to-date information. Selectivity has been exercised to allow fuller treatment rather than more entries with mere identifications. Many articles (chiefly biographical sketches) carry brief bibliographies. Articles on foreign works are entered under the French form without cross reference from the original title except as it appears in the author article. Plates are placed, not in relation to the text, but more or less chronologically according to the period or literary movement illustrated, and the “Index des illustrations” is simply a list of the contents of the plates, not a true index. —E.S.


This is an alphabetical index listing ideas, authors, titles, events, persons, fictional characters, places, and things examined or mentioned in The Harvard Classics. Citation is to volume, page and, where applicable, numbered paragraph. A “Poetry Guide,” giving first lines of the poems, songs, etc., and lists of selections in the compilation which are suitable reading for children of various grade levels are also included.

The book’s subtitle is misleading, for the Idexicon is virtually useless outside its application to The Harvard Classics.—R.K.

January 1963
five decennial volumes published since 1900, as well as an abridgment of their contents.

In plan and arrangement the new work is similar to its predecessor, with articles arbitrarily reduced to approximately one-twelfth of their original length. Information is summary in form, largely factual and limited to significant events in careers and achievements. Names of parents and spouses are often omitted, as are exact dates of birth and death. There are no bibliographic references. A “select subject index” is appended, an alphabetical listing of several hundred topics and events with reference to the appropriate biography in which they are treated.—J.N.W.


Similar to the author’s earlier volumes on musical figures (Guide Q251, Q252, Supplement Q254), this new biographical dictionary includes sketches of “120 of the foremost American popular composers of the past and present. . . . Approximately two thirds of the composers represented . . . belong to the past; only one third are still alive.” (Intro.) Much of the information for the living composers was obtained from or verified by the biographees. A portrait accompanies a high percentage of the sketches, and references to books and periodical articles about the composer are often appended. This should prove a useful volume, and the index of songs offers a further aspect of reference utility.—E.S.


This is a directory of Soviet officials in office as of February 1962. An historical feature, however, is contained in the section on the USSR where a chart starting with 1917 gives names of officials holding principal posts. Beginning with 1941, exact dates are given for appointment and termination of office. There is a name index.—E.B.


This is a German-language “who’s who” for Czechoslovakia, published under the auspices of the Collegium Carolinum in Munich, and compiled on the basis of information gathered from periodicals and other publications of Czechoslovakia. A 120-page directory precedes the main biographical section, listing personnel in party, government, scientific, and cultural organizations. A second edition is planned.—E.B.


The first of a series, planned as four “independent” volumes or parts, which will comprise a biographical dictionary of major Russian scientists. The volume for the fields of mathematics, mechanics, astronomy, physics, and chemistry contains articles on fifty-six scientists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. No living persons are included. Articles are signed and include bibliographies of principal works and additional biographical and scientific references.

Planned volumes are: second, geology and geography; third, biology, medicine, and agricultural sciences; fourth, technology and architecture.—E.B.


Compiled by the Institute for the Study of the USSR, Munich. Ed. by Heinrich E. Schulz and Stephen S. Taylor.

With this volume the continental “who’s who” series includes the Soviet Union for the first time. It contains “about 4000 biographies of prominent personalities in the Soviet Union” (Title Page). This compares with two thousand in the Biographical Directory of the USSR (Supplement 3837) prepared by the same institute. Some names in the earlier publication do not appear in the new work. There is an appendix in the form of a directory, entitled “Key Personnel of Major Party, Government, Military, Scientific and other Organizations.”—E.B.

**History**


Slowly the problems presented to librarians who suddenly must deal with areas and languages outside the familiar borders are being lessened by guides such as this one. Within twelve categories, e.g., general reference aids (including a list of general periodicals), education, history, religion, arts, language and literature, are cited 1,182 Western European and Lithuanian books and articles, many with brief but valu-
able annotations. An author and title index follows. Of considerable value, in addition to the convenience of this selection of titles, is the inclusion of a library location (usually Library of Congress) for almost every item. By way of comparison, the new American Historical Association Guide to Historical Literature has about a dozen items relating specifically to Lithuania. Three of these do not appear in this bibliography which, however, offers over two hundred others.—E.J.R.


A companion volume to the same authors' guide to manuscript materials for American studies for the same period, the present work follows, in general, the alphabetical, topical arrangement employed in the earlier volume. Thus, after a substantial chapter on general and political materials, there are sections on architecture, boundary controversies, cookery, description and travel, etc., through the alphabet to vital statistics. Two especially useful sections not appearing in the previous volume are "Printed Guides to Manuscripts" and "Public Records." Each section is logically subdivided, when appropriate, by form, subject, and geographical region. It is important that the librarian and the student realize the scope of the work, i.e., that it is a locating guide for sources, not a bibliography of the significant studies in the field, so that its emphasis is on bibliographies, collected works, documents, correspondence, personal accounts and narratives, corporate records and similar materials. Individual items are not annotated and bibliographic information is generally brief. There is a lengthy index of personal names.—J.N.W.


"The Warburg Institute promotes research on the survival and revival of classical antiquity in European civilization." (Intro.) Accordingly, its library of some one hundred thousand volumes is broad in scope, including pertinent materials in the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences.

The catalog here reproduced (from a typed copy done for Michigan State University in 1952), including many analytics and periodical articles as well as monographs, could be expected to constitute a strong subject bibliography, or a series of such bibliographies. Unfortunately its use appears to be severely limited, because of its intricate, classed arrangement and little or no editing for publication. There is no approach to the materials cataloged except two tables of contents, one skeletal and without page references, the other non-alphabetical. There are no running heads, and as yet no author index, and although three volumes were originally announced by the publisher, no mention has been made of an index.—J.N.W.


"It will be a principle of this series that the articles in each volume will be written by experts who are nationals of and resident in the relevant country." This statement and others in the Editor's Preface are important for an understanding of the scope and intent of the series. The first volume contains a 763-page translation of volume fifty of the Bol'shaia sovetshaia entsiklopediia, 2d ed. (Supplement 3D12), originally issued in 1957. Brief comparisons indicate some revision of figures in the text, and changes in bibliographies. Front pages contain a notice that the Pergamon Institute offers to provide translations of any articles referred to bibliographically. Of the five appendixes, the first is a translation of a popularly-oriented statistical annual, SSSR v. 1960 godu, which includes comparative data from 1913. Appendix II provides "Addresses of Universities and Establishments for Higher Education . . ." with some indication of their major departments not given in the comparable section of the World of Learning. Appendixes prepared by the editor include "Trading with the Soviet Union: Information for the Guidance of Firms . . ."; a resumé of the "Communist Party Programme" adopted at the twenty-second Party Congress of 1961; and a selected bibliography of books in English. There is a name index with birth and death dates, and a subject index. The work is authoritative in the sense that it is clearly identified source material with useful reference features. The high price is compensated to some extent by good quality paper and strong binding.—E.B.


Unfortunately, the sharp rise of interest in Africa was not immediately accompanied by adequate, up-to-date reference materials. That situation is being rapidly remedied by the publication of such excellent guides as Meyers Handbuch, a one-volume work providing concise information on the whole African continent through a combination of text, maps, and photographs. The handbook is in two parts, the first dealing with Africa as a unit and describing its geographical characteristics, its peoples,
history, economics, art, and languages, and including a section on European and Asian minorities in Africa. Part II consists of two alphabetical listings: one of individual nations, giving brief statistical and historical information; the other listing living African leaders, and accompanied by photographs. A bibliography and index enhance the reference value of the book.—E.A.


This classified list of several hundred books and articles has been "prepared to fill the increasing need for information about Communist China." (Foreword) Political, military, economic, and social affairs are covered, with items for both specialist and layman. Most titles are in English and are generally well annotated, and a number of them represent a viewpoint not unfriendly to the present regime. There are several appendixes, including a bibliography on the Korean war, charts of Chinese government organization, and a number of maps.—J.N.W.


First issued in 1931 (Guide V822) with about sixteen hundred items, this bibliography soon became a standard and valued guide to the various aspects of Welsh history—political, economic, social, literary, and religious. The chronological-topical arrangement and the well annotated entries indicating source as well as secondary materials made for ease of use. These qualities have been retained, while the quantity has been more than doubled, 3574 book and serial references now being listed. Some rearrangement has been made, and the period covered pushed beyond the end of the nineteenth century to 1914, making this a welcome revision.—E.J.R.

New Depository Library Law

In August the President signed into law H.R. 8141, the Depository Library Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-579), culminating several years of effort by libraries and sympathetic Congressmen. In 1956 the House Special Subcommittee to Study Federal Printing and Paperwork began a cooperative study with the Public Documents Committee of ALA, and held extensive hearings that demonstrated the inadequacies of the depository system. Bills were introduced in the Eighty-fifth and Eighty-sixth Congresses, but failed to pass both houses. The Act as now passed increases the authorized number of depositories, and provides that Senators and Representatives may each designate an additional one. This will enable a deserving institution to achieve depository status even though a documents collection already exists in the district. Also, regional depositories within each state may be designated to receive and keep all government publications and to provide service to libraries throughout the region; a substantial savings can result now that libraries are no longer liable for postage on depository shipments; and all government publications, whether or not produced at the Government Printing Office, are available for selection by depositories unless they are for official use only, or classified for reasons of national security. This entitles depositories to draw on the vast output of departmental and field printing plants. Under the new arrangement, the Superintendent of Documents is to issue a classified and annotated list of publications for selection by depositories.