

history buffs particularly—will long be in debt to Edward G. Holley for having rekindled the historic coals of the conference out of which came the American Library Association. As for the book itself, it is beautifully printed, admirably illustrated, handsomely bound—a credit to the publisher, the printer, and the designers. *Raking the Historic Coals* is a solid contribution to library history, to the literature of librarianship, and, what is more, it is a real charmer. —John David Marshall, Middle Tennessee State University.

British Public Library Buildings. By S. G. Berriman and K. C. Harrison. New York: London House and Maxwell, 1966. 260p. \$25.

Public library architecture has long been debated, discussed (and cussed), and studied. Too often there has been more wind than logic; too often architectural whims or professional prejudices have dominated the scene, and the convenience of the user or aesthetic qualities have suffered.

As the authors have rightly pointed out in their monumental record of postwar British public library construction, public libraries the world over were freed from the ornate institutionalism found in buildings constructed prior to the 1940's. Undoubtedly two important factors influenced this change: one a breath of fresh air created by architects, working with newer materials and under a different economy thus permitting materials hitherto too expensive for public buildings; and the other, a completely new understanding on the part of librarians, not only for the functional operational needs of the staff, but also greater consideration for the interrelationship of uses of a public library by the public. This in many buildings has produced a happy combination in a joint understanding and relationship between architect and librarian. A study of this volume will indicate the extent to which this has occurred in Britain.

The book, containing an index, is divided into seven sections: Commentary; Municipal Main Libraries; County Library Headquarters Buildings; Municipal Branch Libraries; County Branch Libraries; Tabulated Data

of other Municipal Library Buildings; and Tabulated Data of other County Library Buildings.

The Commentary contains a good summary of public library architectural trends and recommendations. It is all too short in proportion to the book as a whole. This reviewer would have appreciated more comments and thinking by the authors, for they are in a position to exert great influence on future public library buildings. Indeed it is a pity that the text was not available to architects and librarians before some of the structures illustrated were built. It is exciting to think that a team of architects in the Ministry of Education is producing prototype library plans for varying sizes of communities. These, however, should be subject to continual review for changes required as new services or equipment is required and there should be reasonable acceptance of the prototype plans by all concerned—public, librarian, and architect. There is a danger also, of course, in that the prototype will be duplicated without thought as to local requirements for site and local services. Experimentation and logical evolution must not be squelched.

The volume is well illustrated, giving in many instances a real dimension to the plans. It would have been helpful to have had the plans all drawn to the same scale and to have had tabulations of pertinent statistics. Some floor plans give neither the scale used nor the square footage. This, however, is a most welcome volume which will lead to further thinking on public library building problems.—Emerson Greenaway, *Free Library of Philadelphia*.

Formulation of Research Policies; Collected Papers from an International Symposium. By Lawrence W. Bass, and Bruce S. Olds, eds. [Washington, D.C.] American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1967. 210p. (Publication No. 87). (67-29695).

Research forty years ago, according to a colleague, was less than a respectable activity for a young PhD in chemistry. In recent decades research has taken on an entirely different character and is, in fact, in *Formulation of Research Policies* the subject for attention of nineteen ranking officials in government and industry.