

Carnegie Libraries; Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. By George S. Bobinski. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969. 257p. \$8. (68-54216).

In this adaptation of his doctoral dissertation Mr. Bobinski treats in factual detail the history of Carnegie public library philanthropy in the United States. His comprehensive study of the expenditure of more than \$40,000,000 for the erection of 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 communities, covering all aspects of the subject, including a survey of 225 communities which had Carnegie grants available and did not use them, is both detailed and yet easy-to-read and charming. Perhaps the only faults one might find with it are in the relatively short six-page "personal appraisal of Carnegie's philanthropy" and, in light of the emerging social consciousness of librarians, in his dismissal of the lack of influence that Carnegie exerted on the provision of integrated library service for Negroes in the South and of the question that was raised in some communities of the source of Carnegie's wealth. His comment is that, "It seems unnecessary now to consider the question of how Carnegie made his money and whether it was morally right for communities to accept it as library philanthropy. Andrew Carnegie was no worse, and perhaps even better, than the other capitalists and industrial leaders of his time in respect to wages and working conditions" (p. 186-7). More personal comments and evaluation on a number of the matters dealt with, especially on these two matters of social significance, would have added a great deal to the book.

There is little in this book of specific interest to the academic or research librarian. Apart from a paragraph on a few joint use facilities, such as that provided for Cornell College and the community of Mount Vernon, Iowa, academic libraries are entirely outside the scope of this book; and as Carnegie's aim was to improve popular access to books, his grants to large city libraries, such as the New York Public Library, to which he gave over \$5,000,000 in 1899 to build sixty-six branch libraries, were gen-

erally to provide for branches and other facilities to be used by the general public rather than to provide for research facilities. Carnegie's philanthropy did have an impact on academic libraries. Primarily in the period between 1902 and 1908 some \$4,283,048 was given toward the construction of 108 academic libraries; and, while Bobinski stresses the fact that grants were not made to public libraries for collections, 311 academic libraries, mainly in the 1930s, did receive grants totaling \$2,592,800 for library development which, in general, meant the purchase of books. Hopefully, someone will devote the same care and effort to that aspect of Carnegie philanthropy as Mr. Bobinski has to the public library aspect, for that story is as important and worthy of study and could well result in as pleasant and readable a book as this one. —Norman D. Stevens, *University of Connecticut*.

Library Effectiveness, A Systems Approach. By Philip M. Morse. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1968. 207p. \$10. (68-25379).

Professor Morse has attempted the most difficult task of bridging the gaps between the librarian, the systems analyst, and the operations researcher. The latter two in some areas are considered to be synonymous. His book, divided into two categories (namely, the theoretical models and the application of theory), is well organized and provides an introduction to the theory before it is discussed and applied to the libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It would appear from the standpoint of reviewer, however, that to comprehend the material fully the reader should have at least one semester of probability theory. The librarian with little or no mathematical background will have considerable difficulty comprehending the models, although the trained systems analyst and the operations researcher will comprehend them with little or no difficulty. It would seem that the book is more readily suited to the systems analyst and the operations researcher who currently are working in library systems analysis. The book is of value to the librarian only to the

extent that it exposes him to the kinds of analyses that are possible when one applies the techniques of operations research and systems analysis to a library system. Such applications are long overdue, and the potential results should improve the effectiveness of libraries severalfold.

This book could be used as a beginning text in a course in library science in the area of library systems analysis. However, additional material would be needed to supplement it and to describe some of the other studies that have been done in libraries. A reviewer probably should make some critical comments even about a good book, and therefore my only comment would be that more material could have been included about other studies and models. For example, there are possible applications of non-linear programming to such inventory areas as journal and serial purchasing and selection. However, this is the kind of criticism that can be made of almost any book, namely, that it could have been more comprehensive.

An overall evaluation finds the book to be an excellent contribution to the field of library science which will undoubtedly help to bring more science back into the field of library science.—Richard W. Trueswell, *University of Massachusetts*.

Oregon Imprints 1845-1870. By George N. Belknap. Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1968. 305p. \$10.

Slowly, painstakingly, methodically, we are covering the nation. Someday the good work begun by Roorbach and Kelly, continued by the American Imprints Inventory, and advanced by the intrepid McMurtrie, will be complete, and thereafter we will know with ninety-nine per cent certainty the work of the early printers and publishers who peopled this nation's moving frontiers.

George N. Belknap's *Oregon Imprints* is the latest in a long series of volumes recording the early publications of the respective states, and it is a good one. Imprintophiles will relish the compiler's account of his own seduction:

About a year before Douglas McMurtrie's death

in September 1944, the manuscript of his *Oregon Imprints 1847-1870* was accepted for publication by the University of Oregon. As University Editor, I had expected that my part in the making of the book would be merely the routine checking of copy. But I did not know McMurtrie. Questions on some minor details sent me to the University of Oregon Library. A report to Chicago of two or three small errors in descriptions—probably with a transparent note of editor's oneupmanship—brought flattering thanks for my diligence and sent me back to the Library for further checking. And then I found an imprint "not in McMurtrie" and another, which, after an exciting exchange of letters, went into the manuscript. Now I was hooked . . .

Sound familiar?

During the subsequent fifteen years the compiler added 967 imprints to McMurtrie's original 589 and deleted thirty-five for a final total of 1,521 entries. His discoveries pushed the earliest known printing in the state back two years to 1845. The resulting volume will stand for a long time as the definitive enumeration of early Oregon printing, although one can imagine that somewhere the game has probably already begun of reporting a title "not in Belknap."

The introduction to this work records the adventures and trials of the compiler rather than the standard historical essay on the first printing in the state. The illustrations are well selected, clearly reproduced, and keyed to the text. The appendix comprises a list of 142 lost Oregon imprints. The indexes, both of subjects and of printers and publishers, are comprehensive and accurate.

Bibliographical description of the 1,521 entries is appropriately full, including main entry, title page transcription including line endings, printers' devices, pagination and size, frequent descriptive and historical as well as contents notes, and locations of copies. It is done in the best bibliographical and scholarly tradition and represents an important advance in our growing knowledge of our printing history. The volume is well designed and handsomely printed. May there be more!—David Kaser, *Cornell University*. ■ ■