

# Recent Publications

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Index to Festschriften in Librarianship.*

By J. Periam Danton with the assistance of Otilia C. Anderson. N.Y.: R. R. Bowker Company, 1970, 461p. \$13.50.

The library profession has come to expect solid books from the pen of J. Periam Danton, Professor of Librarianship at the University of California, Berkeley. In this latest volume it will not be disappointed, even though indexing, like bibliography, is scarcely the pleasant nighttime reading of many. Yet most practitioners will read his introductory essay on the literature of festschriften with interest and profit, while subsequent users of the volume will save themselves a good deal of time in chasing down such elusive articles as the one by J. C. M. Hanson on the history of the new LC catalog which they are sure appeared in some homage volume. The field of the festschrift has been peculiarly immune to bibliographical control, containing as it does a great deal of chaff along with a substantial amount of wheat. Often the individual essays, particularly those honoring a distinguished librarian, are solid, scholarly studies offered as a major tribute to one's mentor in the field. Danton's introduction also contains valuable information on bibliographical control of festschriften in other fields.

Strangely enough these homage volumes, published on the occasion of a library's anniversary or the retirement of a distinguished librarian, have infrequently been picked up in other indexes. *Library Literature* did not admit the subject heading FESTSCHRIFTEN to its canon until the 1958-60 volume when it began listing those which came to its editor's attention. Even now it does not analyze the individual articles in the respective homage volumes.

Thus a more recent volume, the festschrift honoring the late Rudolph H. Gjelsness printed in 1966, the last year covered by Danton, is listed but not analyzed in *Library Literature*. In terms of completeness, a brief checking of the festschrift titles included in *Library Literature* from 1958 to 1970 indicates that Professor Danton got all that were eligible for inclusion under his criteria.

What criteria has Danton used for inclusion in his index? Only those festschriften have been included which deal strictly with "librarians, libraries, and library associations," and therefore the user will not find works honoring printers, publishers, book dealers, archivists and the like. Nor will he find articles of a general bibliographical nature, such as Waldo Gifford Leland's "French Sources of American History" from the Putnam Festschrift, or Charles Eberstadt's "On Colorado Guidebooks of '59" from the Lydenberg Festschrift. One may quarrel with Professor Danton's inclusion of such items and his assumption that such articles more properly should be picked up in an index to historical articles in festschriften. Still the author states his principle clearly in the "Guide to the User": "Articles in the volume indexed having nothing whatever to do with libraries, books, manuscripts, reading and so on have not been covered" (p. 12). Incidentally, the worldwide nature of the volume can be seen in the fact that the "Guide to the User" is printed in English, French, and German.

In his twelve-year project Danton has found some 3,300 articles in 283 separate publications representing some twenty-two countries and sixteen languages. Of that number Germany is by far the most prolific publisher with ninety-eight titles, including the earliest one indexed, the 1864-67 volume honoring Frederick Ritschl, Li-

brarian of the University of Bonn. The United States is a poor second with thirty-two, Denmark third with eighteen, and Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland with fifteen each. In his tables, Professor Danton indicates that there has been an almost uninterrupted increase in the total number of festschriften (except in the depression and World War II years). Not that he assumes he has secured them all; he is certain that some South American and Eastern European titles have escaped his net. No doubt the publication of this index will bring to light additional titles.

In addition to the valuable introduction and the guide to the user, there is a code to abbreviations of the festschriften indexed, along with a biographical reference to each honoree where such a reference exists, and a separate section listing reviews of the festschriften. The subject headings used are those of *Library Literature* with an assist from the Library of Congress, but also include some instances of desirable new headings. Extensive "see" and "see also" cross references have been included. The book has been put together in a good format by Bowker, though the index itself has been printed by offset from a typed copy.

While a complete assessment of Danton's index must await the verdict of its users, research workers, especially in the field of library history, will definitely want access to this book.—*Edward G. Holley, University of Houston.*

***European Periodical Literature in the Social Sciences and the Humanities.*** By

Paul E. Vesenyi. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1969. 226p. \$5.00

This publication is a handbook to aid researchers in locating periodical literature published in Europe in the social sciences and the humanities. The types of materials included are indexing and abstracting services, bibliographies, directories and union lists. Reference books published in Europe make up the largest portion of the material although a few American publications are listed when they include a large number of European sources. Current and retrospec-

tive publications are included.

The material has been arranged by country of origin, the items under each country are arranged in alphabetical order. Two additional indexes are provided to enable the user to locate materials by subject and title. The information for each entry is arranged in outline form and includes the title of the publication, the authors or editors, the scope, the publisher and place of publication, and the date of origin. Information concerning cumulations, indexes, supplements and frequency is often provided. The language of the publication is noted. The two most informative portions of each entry are the "Coverage" and "Notes" sections. The "Coverage" section states the purposes and special features of the publication; the "Notes" section indicates arrangement, changes of title and new titles for superseded works. The "Scope" section of each entry, indicating the type of service offered by the publication, tends to repeat information found under the "Coverage" and "Notes" sections.

Included in the area of the social sciences are the subjects of "sociology; economics; political science; public administration; international relations; economic and social history; human, economic and political geography; public, international and constitutional law and statistics." Coverage of each of these subjects is uneven. The subject index lists four titles under "Anthropology" and two titles under "Management" while "Library Science and Documentation" contains nine titles. Under "Political Science" ten titles are suggested, and eleven titles are found under "Communism, Fascism, and National Socialism" and "Socialism."

The subjects included in the humanities are: "religion, philosophy, linguistics, classical studies, fine arts, literature, music and biographical materials." The "Name Bibliographies" listed in the appendix contain twenty-three individuals writing primarily in the humanities. Books contained here seem to have been selected by virtue of the inclusion of periodical literature about the author. The questions of why and how these authors were selected remains unanswered.

Coverage by country varies from one title per country, as in the case of Ireland