

of South Asia, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Shores, Louis. *Quiet World: A Librarian's Crusade for Destiny. The Professional Autobiography of Louis Shores*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1975. 309p. \$15.00. (LC 75-2220) ISBN 0-208-01477-2)

Louis Shores' professional career has spanned more than forty years at mid-century. He has, by his own count, been engaged in twenty "crusades" of which library education has been the overriding one, and the others which have most deeply engaged him have been for one race, basic reference, encyclopedia, library-college, media unity, and library history.

The main thrust of his work has been to move the library from an ancillary position to that as a primary instrument for independent learning. He defines the ultimate goal of the public library as independent study for all; he believes that reference librarians should initiate inquiry rather than merely answer the questions put to them; he has fathered the library-college which seeks to increase effectiveness of student learning through use of library-centered independent study, and he has vigorously promoted audiovisual unity with other library resources as a means to extending independent learning down into the secondary and elementary grades.

In Shores' account of his early life, the roots of his zeal for independent study can be readily identified. At the age of four his sister took him to the neighborhood branch of the Cleveland Public Library where a children's librarian brought him fairy stories and occasionally read with him. By the time he entered first grade he could already read, a fact which gave him superiority over his classmates. In high school he discovered for himself, as a means of dealing with an abstruse textbook on physics, the value of comparing authorities. In an economics class he made use of an encyclopedic overview to impress the pretty young teacher. Both these incidents, he says, contributed to the library-college learning mode. At the University of Toledo he was discontented with the class-centered curriculum.

Dr. Shores repeatedly says that he dis-

likes to "tell it as it is," by which he means that he eschews the grotesque in art, the sordid in literature, and defeatism in his outlook for the human race. If he does not actually believe in the perfectability of man, he at least believes man can save himself by his own intellect given the quiet and resources of our libraries.

A great deal is packed into this book, which perhaps accounts for the fact that in the first part especially the style of writing seems a little spare. However, there are some delightful bits such as the nine-year-old boy Walter-Mitty around his newspaper route or the Fulbright scholar Shores entertaining S. R. Ranganathan and introducing the subject of occultism rather than classification so that Mrs. Shores found the two men on the floor in lotus leaf fashion when she entered the living room. The pages on intellectual freedom are among the liveliest in the book.

Dr. Shores has a mystic feeling about his quiet world of the library, a feeling which comes whenever he enters the stacks and smells the mustiness of old bindings, that he has been there before—long before. Almost every adult has experienced this feeling of *déjà vu* and that librarian is a poor thing who in a silent stack cannot thrill to the sense of the continuity of man's mind and spirit.

This book is a fascinating chapter in the history of librarianship.—*Helen M. Brown, Librarian, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.*

Lancaster, F. Wilfrid, ed. *Application of Minicomputers to Library and Related Problems*. Papers presented at the 1974 Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, April 28–May 1, 1974. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, 1974. 195p. \$6.00. (Available from Pub. Office—249, Armory Building, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820.) (LC 65-1841) (ISBN 0-87845-041-6)

This is not so much a review as a whine; my major quarrel with this book is not with its content, format, intent, or expertise of the contributors; it is the fact that by the time you read this review, or get around to the book itself, the information in it will be two years old, and considerably out of date.

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The papers in the volume are very informative and quite practical, and almost every one of them iterates somewhere how rapidly the field of minicomputers is changing, how wide the range of costs for hardware is, how flexible the applications are, and how rapidly their limitations are being overcome.

To highlight the presentations briefly, a very detailed cost accounting for IBM System/7 is provided by Lois M. Kershner, along with the complete description of its operation. The Stanford BALLOTS program, one of the most ambitious and expanding systems in operation, is described in part, and I especially liked the ideas expressed in the paper by Ann H. Schabas and Gene A. Damon of the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto, which describes the hands-on learning experience with a minicomputer.

Among the many useful tidbits of advice about cost, needs, configurations, and staffing, one stands out: Charles T. Payne suggests getting acquainted with a local electronics laboratory in order to simplify troubleshooting in a system with components supplied by several manufacturers if you are planning an EDP installation with that characteristic. His paper particularly looks hard at maintenance as well as design and implementation. Most of the papers stress the versatility and range of minicomputers, as independent units or parts of systems, with good illustrations of both.

The book is interesting: I finished reading it wishing that I knew how each of the activities described are doing now, some two years later. Some are well known; others may have folded. Follow-up information or more rapid publication would be helpful.—Fay Zipkowitz, *University Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.*

Panofsky, Hans E. *A Bibliography of Africana*. (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, no.11) Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1975. 350p. \$15.00. (LC 75-823) (ISBN 0-8371-6391-9)

It is not clear for whom *A Bibliography of Africana* is meant or what purpose it is intended to serve. The book is too poorly organized to be easily used by students or faculty. Most damaging to the overall value

of the book is the fact that this bibliography cannot stand on its own; it must be used in conjunction with another reference book—*Guide to Research and Reference Works on Sub-Saharan Africa*, edited by Peter Duignan.

Numerous times Panofsky writes: "This section, as many previous ones, will merely amplify and update Duignan's *Guide*" (p.92). While this appears to be the rationale for *A Bibliography of Africana*, that basic fact is not everywhere made clear to the reader, nor is this purpose consistently carried out in all relevant sections. But even if he did consistently "amplify and update Duignan's *Guide*," Panofsky's book would still be unsatisfactory because the bulk of the Africana reference material will be in the *Guide* and not in the *Bibliography*. Without a reasonable summary of material in the *Guide*, Panofsky's volume remains truncated and of limited use. (And the *Guide* to which Panofsky refers the reader so often is inaccurately cited the two times the full title is given.)

Parts one, two, and six of *A Bibliography of Africana* are not very useful. To try to cover African studies throughout the world in eighteen pages is clearly impossible. Not only does he fail to describe the major reference books which contain information on programs, libraries, archives, and institutes; but he also leaves out the two Germanies and the Scandinavian countries. African studies in Africa gets a little more than one page. Parts three, four, and five are good sections with much useful material described, although they only update and slightly amplify "Duignan's *Guide*."

The internal organization of part five (the country surveys) is confusing and erratic. For the first time in part five we get coverage of North Africa. In no other part of the bibliography does Panofsky discuss North Africa. It is a good section, but it is not properly integrated into the rest of the book.

The country section is not orderly and systematic. You cannot find similar subheadings in each country survey. Bibliographies may be discussed in three different places within a country profile. Each country in effect has different subheadings and whether or not a country has a specific subhead seems arbitrary. Zambia's excellent