



## Reading, Writing

In this second issue of *College & Research Libraries* in ALA's centennial year, David Kaser and Robert Stueart call our attention to the literature of librarianship.

Robert Stueart looks at the present. His aim is primarily practical as he gives his thoughts on how and what to write in the field of librarianship. He points out the pressures placed on academic librarians to publish as well as the rewards they may receive. He reminds the writer to be prepared for and not discouraged by letters of rejection. Even though opportunities for publication are many, the scope of a given journal can be limited. For example, of the approximately 150 to 160 manuscripts presently submitted each year to *College & Research Libraries*, forty to fifty will be selected for publication. Dr. Stueart's major concern, however, is that our profession is too inward looking and that its members are writing only for one another. There are too few examples of librarians writing for the nonlibrary press.

A related concern of ours is that even though this journal gives librarians an opportunity to write for one another, all too often manuscripts received are prepared as though in a vacuum without any obvious indication of interest as to what has already happened or been recorded elsewhere. David Kaser would seem to agree. In his review of a century of writing on academic librarianship, he recalls the several major themes that continue to engage our attention. With our own too limited view we forget at times that problems facing us have been with us before and "that there is little that is ever truly new in the field."

Even with that warning, Dr. Kaser points out how the literature has developed from simple descriptive statements of conditions in one library to subsequent contributions in which generalizations are advanced. When tested, prescriptive statements are made and ultimately, once a consensus is reached, standards are achieved. In this way "a profession reaches maturity." It is an aim of this journal to participate in that development so that the maturity he describes may be attained.

Dr. Kaser also credits the American Library Association with having published a large share of the important literature of academic librarianship, and in this centennial year we look with pride also at this particular achievement. This issue features reviews of two books recently published by the association and of particular interest to our readers—a new volume in the ACRL Publications in Librarianship series and a useful volume assembling the several policy statements on academic status.

ACRL celebrates an anniversary this year with *College & Research Libraries News* beginning its second decade in March 1976. Started ten years ago on a six-month trial basis with the title *ACRL News*, our division's newsletter has increasingly become an essential medium bringing all academic and research librarians together.

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