plus harder work on the part of the authors would have produced a much more valuable book.—Thomas L. Bonn, Electronic Media Center Librarian, State University of New York, College at Cortland.


The Nature of Maps consists of six essays which together are an impressive attempt to provide a general theory of cartography. The essays are: On Maps and Mapping; the Map as a Communication System; Mapping, Language and Meaning; Seeing and Mapping; the Conception of Space; and Structure in Maps and Mapping. Drs. Robinson and Petchenik are eminent cartographers, well versed in the literature of their own field as well as related disciplines such as logic, philosophy, linguistics, information theory, and psychology.

Generally, cartographers have been primarily concerned with various technical innovations and not the theoretical problem of how a map acquires meaning from its maker and elicits meaning in its user. In order to understand the communicative process in maps, the authors provide an analysis of other types of communications and demonstrate their relationship to cartography. What the authors are delineating is a broad research paradigm specific to this discipline, with the emphasis shifting from the "map as a static graphic display to the cognitive and perceptual activities of the individuals who interact with maps."

This is the first detailed analysis of the philosophical basis of cartography and the treatment of the map as a cognitive system. It is a highly sophisticated benchmark work which treats in great detail issues which have been only briefly raised by earlier researchers: for example, the fundamental character of meaning in the mapping system, physiological and psychological insights into visual cognition, development of the ability to visualize and form images of the perceptual stimuli themselves, and acquisition and character of spatial knowledge.

The volume is well documented with numerous references to scholars in the sciences and humanities, such as R. Carnap, E. Cassirer, J. Piaget, M. Polanyi, and E. Imhof. It should be noted that this is far from the easiest book to follow, for either the cartographer or the librarian. It is a major contribution toward a general theory of cartography and clearly demonstrates that the "concept of spatial relatedness which is of concern in mapping and which indeed is the reason for the very existence of cartography, is a quality without which it is difficult or impossible for the human mind to apprehend anything." The Nature of Maps is recommended for most four-year college and university libraries.—Alan Edward Schorr, Assistant Professor, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Recent Publications / 171


The purpose of this reader "is to present, in an accessible and convenient form, a group of articles which have been found to be of more than average usefulness by several lecturers with courses in library management." The twelve articles chosen are from British, American, and Canadian journals, dated between 1968 and 1974.

The text itself is divided into five sections: management, planning, organization, personnel, and evaluation. The articles chosen to discuss issues relating to these five topics provide a general introduction to library management theory. "The Need for Administrative Know-How in Libraries" by Beatrice V. Simon is well-placed as the initial selection and provides a synoptic review of the literature and concepts of management science.

In "Creative Library Management" K. H. Jones distinguishes between the narrowness of mechanistic librarianship and a more encompassing existential view of library service. P. H. Sewell and J. R. Haak point up the need for library goals on a national level and in undergraduate libraries, respectively.

"A Systems Concept of Organization and Control of Large University Libraries" by