

their counterparts in this revised edition, one can only conclude that rather little has changed since the early 1970s. Three papers appear unchanged apart from a few updates and corrections, others show only minor revisions, and a few have major sections rewritten.

Maltby's excellent introductory essay, "Classification—Logic, Limits, Levels," has been admirably enlarged. "The Bibliographic Classification" by J. Mills is basically the same but contains an outline of the new Bibliographic Classification and other changes, reflecting the author's work toward the comprehensive revision of this classification scheme as chairman of the Bliss Classification Association.

M. A. Gopinath's "Colon Classification" shows only minor changes. This is true also of the following paper, J. P. Immroth's "Library of Congress Classification," as well as the papers by B. C. Vickery, "Classificatory Principles in Natural Language Indexing Systems"; E. M. Keen, "Prospects for Classification Suggested by Evaluation Tests"; and Robert R. Freeman, "Classification in Computer-Based Information Systems of the 1970s."

G. A. Lloyd's "Universal Decimal Classification" follows the same general outline as his earlier paper but contains new information, mainly additions on UDC in relation to the broad system of ordering for UNISIST, and also an epilogue somewhat less optimistic about the future of UDC than that expressed in his paper published in 1972.

Sarah K. Vann's "Dewey Decimal Classification" includes many rewritten sections as well as a new section on the eighteenth edition. A detailed appendix in the first edition appraising the then forthcoming eighteenth edition has been deleted, however.

Of major interest is Derek Austin's "The CRG Research into a Freely Faceted Scheme," a revision of his earlier paper, "Trends towards a Compatible General System." Initially similar, the new paper contains much additional information on the development of PRECIS.

This is a most worthwhile collection of papers on the current state and prospective developments in classification, both theory and practice, by recognized authorities in

the field. Anyone with even a remote interest in the subject who missed the first edition should certainly consider this revision. While there is much identical material, those who have the first edition and are concerned with the subject will find the changes significant and will want this revised edition as well.—J. R. Moore, *Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York.*

Sutherland, J. A. *Victorian Novelists and Publishers.* Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Pr.; London: The Athlone Pr. of the Univ. of London, 1976. 251p. \$13.95. LC 76-8216. ISBN 0-226-78061-9.

The past few years have been witness to an encouraging growth of scholarly interest in publishing, as distinct from literary or printing, history. Recent publications (e.g., *Studies in the Book Trade in Honor of Graham Pollard* and the long-awaited first number of a new journal, *Publishing History*) have begun to circulate some of the best research that has been done on this critical aspect of the history of books. John Sutherland's *Victorian Novelists and Publishers* is a superb book, an indication of the works of synthesis to which, one hopes, the more specialized studies will give birth.

Between 1830 and 1870 publishing in England evolved rapidly and permanently from the modest trade of booksellers into the big-business world of publishing firms still with us today. Simultaneously, and not incidentally, the production of fiction increased enormously, both in quantity and quality. New formats and methods of distribution—the three-decker, publication in parts, magazine serialization, and the circulating libraries—were the new characteristics of fiction publication. Dickens, the Brontës, Trollope, and others, when marketed by publishers like Chapman and Hall or Longman or distributed by Mudie's, appealed to a new middle-class reading public that differed from both the armchair novel reader of earlier times and the working-class reader of subliterate writing. Other factors also contributed to the growth of literary fiction: the railways, for example, were an ideal place for the reading of fiction; gas lighting increased the places where it was possible to read.

These factors fed on each other. The three-decker's economics turned out to be predictably, if modestly, profitable, even in quite small editions. Thus publishers could take chances with works that might have only limited appeal. This meant a steady supply of fiction of constant "novelty," which in turn encouraged novel reading as a fashionable habit. Part publication allowed publishers to gauge quickly a book's appeal and tailor their print orders appropriately; and on the other side, it allowed the public to test out a new work on the small investment of the price of a single number. The railways opened up a new point of distribution, the railway bookstall, which in turn fostered the sale of cheap editions of popular writers. All in all it was a splendid climate for writer and publisher alike, despite the marginal profit levels that have always been characteristic of the book trade.

The first half of Sutherland's book draws a readable and comprehensive picture of this climate. Well-documented generalizations emerge from publishers' archives and led-

gers, letters, and biographical sources. Sufficient illustrative incident is cited to flesh out the account. Nor is the picture by any means a uniform one: one of Sutherland's themes is the tremendous variety of practices and styles prevalent in the emerging publishing firms. The big names—Smith Elder, Macmillan, Longman, Bentley, Chapman and Hall, Bradbury and Evans, Blackwood—were as different from one another as they were collectively from the smaller, less influential firms such as Tinsley and Newby. The nature of an author's publisher could and did have marked effects on the person's reputation and sales and on the nature of the author's writing.

The second half of the book explores this theme in greater detail, examining the relationships of several conspicuously successful authors of the first and lesser rank—Thackeray, Kingsley, Trollope, Charles Lever and Harrison Ainsworth, Dickens, George Eliot, and Hardy—with their "big seven" publishers. These accounts are of great interest to the literary critic, for they add much to our knowledge of the circum-

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stances influencing an author—or rather, a successful literary author. However, as analysis of the works under discussion, they are merely a beginning; we will still need to have full-length studies of the relations of each of these authors to his publisher. However, Sutherland has succeeded in substantiating his claim that publishers share responsibility for much of what was written during England's golden age of fiction.

This is an excellent and stimulating account of the best-known aspect of one particular branch of nineteenth-century publishing and will be the preferred introduction to the subject for students of literature, bibliography, and economic history. One only wishes that someone would do the same for the altogether less studied genres of the Victorian age.—*Joan M. Friedman, Yale Center for British Art and British Studies, New Haven, Connecticut.*

***Collections of Official Publications in Canada.*** Research Collections in Canadian Libraries. II. Special Studies. V.5. Ottawa: Resources Survey Division, Collections Development Branch, National Library of Canada, 1976. 888p. \$10 Canada; \$12 other countries. (Available from Information Canada, 171 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario IIA OS9.)

This is the National Library of Canada's fifth state-of-the-art report in the series Research Collections in Canadian Libraries intended to assess Canadian libraries' holdings of government publications. NLC surveyed a wide cross-section of libraries, employing a preliminary questionnaire for all libraries and then follow-up checklists of specific titles, subjects, countries, and agencies for those libraries collecting at more concentrated levels.

The report consists of two parts: a narrative summary of findings and appendixes giving detailed information on the content of collections of government publications in about 250 libraries. What emerges, as a result, is a 136-page report and 735 pages of appendixes including holdings lists, questionnaires, checklists, and collection development statements—a potpourri of information and data on official publications not found between two covers anywhere else.

The report itself is, of course, the most important segment and contributes to our knowledge not only of official publications in Canadian libraries but of documents generally. One must be mindful that the emphasis of the report is on selection and acquisition, and any discussion of administration and staffing is related to these two facets. The chapter on selection and acquisition itself is excellent. This chapter relates how types of libraries acquire government documents and also discusses depository arrangements, purchase, gifts and exchanges, retention, and weeding. It is a valuable supplement to texts on library acquisition practices.

After the discussion on selection and acquisition, the report focuses on special areas of publications: parliamentary, nonparliamentary, municipal, foreign, international organizations, and microforms. The data and information reported about these publications were general, from the follow-up checklists returned by libraries that reported some in-depth collecting in the various areas. It is here that some unevenness appears in the report. For example, there is an inventory of parliamentary holdings (debates, journals, etc.) by specific titles, while the survey of nonparliamentary is by subjects.

In the area of municipal documents, the report emphasizes their elusiveness and difficulty and surveys the provinces to determine where notable collections exist. When it comes to international inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), the report gives scant narration about holdings. One has to rely on the appendixes that list IGOs and which libraries collect them. A chart that would simply indicate which libraries are depositories for various IGOs would be helpful. The attempt of the report to wrestle with "working documents" of IGOs and technical reports was admittedly a failure. So what one has to deal with is a whole range of government publications entities: specific titles, names of organizations, countries, cities, and subjects. This is not to indict the report, since the variety and scope of government publishing would not permit otherwise, but only to indicate that an interested reader is going to deal with a range of dissimilar information.