

anship. Frederic de Peyster, president of the society from 1864-1866 and 1873-1882, emphasized the broad educational role of the institution, while George Henry Moore, librarian from 1849-1866, viewed it as a professional library serving specialized scholars. Under Moore's successors, William and Robert Kelby, the society became one of the city's chief centers of genealogical research and hereditary patriotic organizations. A solution to this issue was eventually facilitated by the departmentalization of the functions and purposes of the society by librarian (and later director) Alexander J. Wall in 1939. The library continued to function as a scholarly resource while the new museum allowed the society to meet the popular educational demands.

Despite these difficulties, the New-York Historical Society managed to attract collections of major importance. Richards' account is peppered with descriptions of the manuscript and printed riches that came into the institution. Unrelated materials were accepted as well. This "vacuum cleaner" approach to acquisitions was eventually refined by director R.W.G. Vail, who established a policy of building to the strengths of the collection in 1959. Like his predecessor, Alexander J. Wall, Vail worked to achieve closer cooperation with other New York institutions.

Richards brings her story up to the present with a discussion of the recataloging and conservation projects of the society under director James D. Heslin and librarian James Gregory. The problems of escalating costs and a stagnating endowment fill the final pages of her study. *Scholars and Gentlemen* is a fine contribution to the history of the cultural institutions of New York City and of the United States.—Marie Elena Korey, *Free Library of Philadelphia*.

Library Technical Services: Operations and Management. Ed. by Irene P. Godden. (Library and Information Science series) Orlando, Fla.: Academic, 1984. 272p. \$32. LC 83-15645. ISBN 0-12-287040-9.

The editor of *Library Technical Services: Operations and Management* says that the

text is intended to provide an overview of current technical services operations. It is also intimated that this work is for the professional reader. The operations described are mainly those found in academic and research libraries—but applicability in other types of libraries is assumed. The book attempts, therefore, to provide a comprehensive overview of current technical services operations, including administration, automation, acquisitions, bibliographic control, preservation, and circulation.

By *current* is meant not only recent, but developments since the publication of Maurice Tauber's classic text *Technical Services in Libraries* (New York: Columbia Univ. Pr., 1954)—a period of thirty years. The emphasis, however, is not on a historical overview but primarily on the current situation. Tauber's work originated with his teaching duties in Columbia's School of Library Service and came within a decade or two of the time in the library world when technical services as such were first conceived. As much as any other single event, the publication of Tauber's text heralded the arrival of an organizational identity for the library technical services unit or division. Ironically, this new work edited by Irene Godden appears at a time when that identity is undergoing serious rethinking and when some are even predicting its demise.

Library Technical Services contains only seven chapters, and one of those is the introduction. Other chapters are devoted to administration, automation, acquisitions, bibliographic control, preservation, and circulation. These are considered to be the functional areas of technical services, and the editor explains that discussions of specific materials and operations are covered in each functional chapter. Hence, for descriptions and discussions of specific topics (e.g., serials, government publications, binding), it is essential that the reader refer to the index where treatment in the respective chapter is referenced. Each of the chapters is organized along similar lines. That is, the specialist author for the particular chapter provides an introduction, deals with the terminology, discusses major topics, issues, and special

problems, and then documents the chapter with suggestions for keeping up to date and with references and a bibliography.

In reading the chapters one must keep in mind that an overview is intended. The treatments are not in-depth; new information and new concepts are lacking. Nevertheless, it is helpful to have leading practitioners document present operations in technical services. Two authors cover a broad range of topics in their respective chapters. In chapter 3, "Automation," Karen Horny covers topics such as integrated systems, standards, networks and cooperation, and downtime. Betty Bengtson in chapter 5, "Bibliographic Control," covers cataloging and classification, original and copy cataloging, serials, authority control, retrospective conversion, etc. The chapter on administration provides a very shallow discussion of organizational practices for technical services—currently a hot topic for the profession. The chapter on preservation includes such diverse topics

as deacidification, weeding, shelving, and storage. In these and the other chapters the reader will find well-written descriptions of current technical service practice.

The physical qualities of the book are acceptable. The construction, type, page format, and headings all contribute to making it very usable. And, one sees evidence of heavy editorial control—probably by both the editor of this particular volume and the series editor. A certain consistent editorial quality is maintained, but the result is, at times, a rather sterile and rigid narrative. The preface and introductory chapter offer the only unifying factor for the work. It may be that the increasingly complex and changing nature of technical services and current editorial practice for such series books have precluded the possibility of a unified work (like Tauber's for example). In any case, some readers may prefer separate texts by specific functional areas that offer such unity. *Acquisitions Management and Collection Development in Libraries* by Rose Mary Magrill and Dora-

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lyn Hickey (Chicago: American Library Assn., 1984) is a very good example of one such work.

The enduring contribution of *Library Technical Services: Operations and Management* will most likely be realized as users refer to its guidance on "keeping up" and to the references and bibliographies that document operations in the functional areas of library technical services.—Don Lannier, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

Leaders in American Academic Librarianship: 1925-1975. Ed. by Wayne A. Wiegand. (Beta Phi Mu Chapbook, no. 16) Pittsburgh: Beta Phi Mu, 1983. 419p. \$50. LC 83-21448. ISBN 0-9102-3016-X. (Distributed by American Library Association.)

This book will be of value to all those interested in ascertaining the paths to influence and renown in the American academic world followed by academic librarians in the period surveyed. This volume might, however, more accurately be entitled *Leaders in American Libraries* since the fifteen people included have all been library directors. The avowed goals of the editor are to: (1) increase academic librarians' awareness of their profession by reviewing crucial events and the leaders who shaped or reacted to them, (2) recall a generation of leaders now being forgotten, and (3) generate more interest in academic library history. While the collection of essays should do these things, as well as occasion speculation on how the approaches discussed would apply to contemporary situations in academic libraries, the unfortunately high price of the book will effectively keep it out of the hands of many potential readers and some libraries.

The academic librarians included have been rather arbitrarily chosen: a committee of six well-known librarians narrowed down an original list of twenty-five academic librarians to fifteen on whose importance consensus could be reached. Secondary sources were not consulted in these deliberations, and the final group selected is not claimed as a definitive list of the greatest academic librarians of the period. Many readers will feel that omitted

librarians rate inclusion as much or more so than some of those selected, but this dissatisfaction is inherent in any brief selection, no matter how it is arrived at, and the editor is honest in his subjectivity.

Some readers will feel that too heavy an emphasis has been placed on library directors to the exclusion of other types of academic librarians. Once again, in an avowedly subjective survey that does not claim representativeness, such an emphasis is harder to fault. This lack of any explicit editorial focus does, however, result in a variety of unmediated viewpoints from which the reader must isolate and synthesize those traits that contributed to effective performance and leadership in the academic library context.

Those librarians included are Charles H. Brown, W. S. Dix, Robert Downs, Ralph Ellsworth, Lillian B. Griggs, Guy Lyle, Stephen McCarthy, Blanche P. McCrum, Keyes DeWitt Metcalf, Jerrold Orne, Lawrence Powell, Ralph Shaw, Maurice Tauber, Robert Vosper, and Louis Round Wilson. All are known primarily as library directors except for Tauber and Wilson, best known for their activities in cataloging and library education, respectively. They, too, however, had directed libraries. No member of the Library of Congress is included except for McCrum, who ended her career there as a specialist in documents and a bibliographer after decades as the director of two academic libraries.

The editor allowed considerable freedom to his contributors as to style and organization. While most articles summarize all facets of the subject's library activities, the one on Wilson is conceived as a supplement to his authorized biography. While most of the writers endorse the editorial committee's choice of subjects, the biographers of Dix and Lyle claim that their high reputations among contemporaneous librarians were more the result of luck and personal charisma than of vital contributions to, or innovations in, the field. The biographers of Griggs and McCrum, on the other hand, present the case that these librarians' careers have been unjustly ignored because of the bias against female leadership in the