

pieces, and would pay much more attention to research in the effects of particular media, especially magazines and newspapers and books, and would give much less attention to too-easy generalizations about all media.—*LeRoy Charles Merritt, University of California.*

Classified List of Reference Books and Periodicals

The Classified List of Reference Books and Periodicals for College Libraries. W. Stanley Hoole, editor. 3d ed. Atlanta, Ga.: Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Commission on Colleges and Universities, 1955. xi, 227p. \$3.

In 1940 at the suggestion of the then Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, a group of college and university librarians of the South undertook the compilation of two checklists, one of reference books and one of periodicals, for use in checking and strengthening the collections of the libraries of member institutions. These lists were in every sense cooperative efforts, representing the pooled judgments of librarians, teachers, and subject specialists and based on a study of the curricula of representative southern institutions and an examination of existing comparable lists. The separate mimeographed editions of 1940 were revised and published as one in 1947 and now a third edition has been issued.

Still representing the needs of the four-year undergraduate college as reflected in the curricula of the colleges of the South, the new edition was compiled in the same way with the additional advantage of the knowledge gained from use of the earlier editions over many years.

As in the second edition the reference works are grouped in five major categories: General, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities, with further subject subdivisions under each. Strictly a reference list, general treatises are said to have been included only to supply an essential need in an area where reference books are not available. In this connection one might question

the need of having in reference collections the various series in American history. However, if they are to be included, even the American Nation series, now largely out of print, why is there no mention of the New American Nation series of which a number of volumes are already published?

In any work of this nature there are bound to be differences of judgment, but for the most part the quality of selection remains high. Although anthropology is apparently little emphasized in southern colleges, it would seem that at least a directory like Thomas and Pikelis' *International Directory of Anthropological Institutions* would be needed. And it is strange not to find such titles as the *Bibliographic Index*, *Library Literature*, *Facts on File* and the *New York Times Index*.

The deletion in this edition of subdivisions like Anthropology and Ethnology, Astronomy, and Meteorology has forced the titles in these fields into other groups where they are found only if a key word in the title provides a clue to their location through the index. The Anthropology titles are placed under Sociology, at least four Astronomy books are among the Physics titles, while seven of the titles classed under Meteorology in the 1947 edition are now located in the same or revised editions under Geology. It seems doubtful that the elimination of these subdivisions has served any useful purpose.

Only a casual check was made for accuracy, but it was surprising to note the (*Guide to American Business Directories* listed under Davis and again under U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, since the Public Affairs Press edition given under Davis is a reissue of the government document with substantially no change. Also, it was the Menefee and Chambers bibliography *American Youth* which was published in 1938; the supplement to it, *Youth, Key to America's Future*, by Chambers and Exton, which is listed here, was published in 1949.

The titles in the reference list now number 1,447 as against 778 in the first edition and 1,262 in the second. Symbols used in the 1947 edition to denote books for first purchase and those suitable for junior colleges have been dropped.

Periodicals, which were last given in a sep-

arate list under such headings as Book Reviews, Home Economics, History, and Physics have now been divided into the five major categories of the books and are listed alphabetically at the end of all the subdivisions of each category. To this reviewer, the one major criticism of this very useful work is the failure to subdivide the periodical lists, placing, for example, the chemistry periodicals after the reference works on chemistry and the history periodicals after the reference works on history, leaving, as before, for the general section those which belong in no subject grouping. Under the present arrangement it is necessary to read through 195 titles in the social science group to locate the ten or twelve sociology periodicals.

A new feature in this edition is the notation of the sources of periodical indexing, an addition placed immediately in error by the many changes in the *International Index*. This only emphasizes the great difficulty of keeping lists of reference books and periodicals up to date, for the closing compilation date here was October, 1954.

In spite of a number of typographical errors and the loss of the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress* among the bibliographical entries, the index is greatly improved, placing this time in a single alphabet the authors and titles of the reference works and, in italics, the periodical titles.

Once more the editor warns against the use of the list as an acquisitions guide or for accrediting purposes without consideration of local needs and recognition that other titles might serve as well. These are valid warnings to be heeded in the use of any standard list and detract not at all from the value of this one as "a reasonably effective measurement for improving the quality of college libraries in the South."—*Winifred Linderman, Columbia University*.

The First Cambridge Press

The First Cambridge Press in its European Setting. By E. P. Goldschmidt. The Sandars Lectures in Bibliography, 1953. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1955. x, 99 p. \$3.75.

The First Cambridge Press (1521-1522) which the author describes in his preface as a

story of the "literary characteristics of the publishing venture of Siberch (i.e., John Laer of Siegburg) . . . in comparison with similar enterprises in other university towns on the Continent" is a fascinating and intriguing study. Even those who may not always agree with the theses of the late E. P. Goldschmidt will admire anew his tremendous fund of knowledge and his mastery of intellectual history.

The first chapter deals with the connections between Siberch and the Greek scholar Richard Croke, Henry Bullock, Bishop John Fischer (the chancellor of Cambridge University), and other more or less famous contemporaries. It analyzes in detail the ten books now credited to the first Cambridge press, among them Bullock's welcome to Cardinal Wolsey, the first edition of Lucian's *Dipsades* (in Latin), the first edition of Erasmus' *De Conscribendis Epistolis*, Galen's *On the Temperaments*, and the anonymous allegory *Hermathena*.

The second chapter serves to connect England's first humanist press with parallel developments on the Continent; it is in fact a concise and very useful history of Greek studies around the year 1500. It contains, besides a wealth of information on the spread of classical knowledge, some rather thought-provoking observations. Here is one example:

The magnificent effort of the Aldine editions of the Greek authors marks the end, not the beginning, of humanism in Italy. They are the culmination of the endeavours and wishes of a whole century; but their sequel is negligible in Italy. They bear their fruit beyond the Alps.

Chapter three is entitled "Continental Scholar-Printers" and deals with Siberch's Roman type and with the humanist presses in Erfurt, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Cracow, Vienna, Basel, Louvain, Paris, Caen, Toulouse and some few other towns.

The three chapters (originally planned as lectures) are accompanied by an equal number of appendices of which one will prove particularly useful. Appendix B, "Renaissance Translations from the Greek," lists in tabular form the first Greek printing and the first Latin translations of Greek authors and texts produced during the Renaissance. This compilation alone will serve as a monument to the erudition of the scholar-bibliographer-bookseller E. P. Goldschmidt.

The book is most pleasingly produced and