

pothesis; since only minority type responses were analyzed, how could the conclusions be anything else?

In addition, even with this stacking of the deck, the quantity of documentation is low. If only 77 relevant publications have appeared in the last 57 years (an average of 1.35 articles per year), this would not appear to constitute a major preoccupation of the profession with a negative stereotype.

However, by the end of chapter 2 the author has set up this straw man, which she then attacks, primarily through a detailed analysis of librarians' scores on three standard personality tests, all of which show that, in general, librarians are normal, well adjusted, and happy.

Other topics touched upon in the book include factors involved in occupational choice, reasons for entering the profession, recruitment, and library education. These are all important topics for the profession, and one can find in this book a fascinating mixture of: (a) interesting comments regarding the differences in roles and working environments of different types of librarians, e.g., academic and school librarians have an "especially difficult time acquiring the status they desire . . . [because] the mission of the parent institution of these libraries is in the hands of another and dominant profession"; (b) fuzzy statements that are not explained, but that underlie important positions taken by the author ("Although the library profession is made up of different segments—library educators, public librarians, special librarians, (etc.) . . . —they make up a dynamic whole, a group, that shares a common fate because they are interdependent"); (c) statements that dismiss important research that could shed light on an issue ("It is doubtful that one can establish a relationship between tasks of a given occupation and specific personality traits required for members of that occupation"); (d) a very good bibliography which draws heavily on the literature of sociology and psychology; (e) excellent discussion of examples from the literature of how a negative mind-set regarding the profession seriously biases one's interpretation of research results;

and finally, (f) good, practical observations and advice—librarians are their own worst enemies. We should stop writing and speaking in self-destructive ways about our image and status, "acquire a better perspective on the stereotype and learn to take it in stride . . . improve it by not adding to it and by not disseminating it, and most important . . . control [our] response to it."

If the cost of the book were reduced by two-thirds, and in spite of its basis on a very poor research design, I would recommend the book for all librarians, since the subject has a perverse fascination for most of us, the credibility of the profession is important to all of us, and the author has shown courage and thoughtfulness in confronting controversial issues (especially library school accreditation), which the profession has not dealt with in a straightforward, intelligent, and constructive manner. However, given the critical deficiencies in the research design, the weaknesses in the analysis, along with the very high price of the book, this reviewer recommends: caveat emptor.—*Suzanne O. Frankie, Oakland University Libraries.*

#### **Roberts, Matt and Etherington, Don.**

*Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books: A Dictionary of Descriptive Terminology.* Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982. 296p. LC 81-607974.

The compilers of this dictionary claim that it is not an encyclopedia; it is "a guide to the vocabulary of a field, not a compendium on a specific subject." Nevertheless, this volume is loaded with encyclopedic information, and it fails as a dictionary because it does not provide lexical information about the vocabulary it contains. Like so many reference tools defying exact classification, it is a *vade mecum* falling somewhere between the two, i.e., an encyclopedic dictionary. It contains more than three thousand words and names, from formal usage, technical vocabularies, historical figures and methods, and informal trade jargon, all arranged alphabetically word by word (rather than by letter). It is a mine of information, surpassing old standards like John Carter's *ABC for Book Col-*

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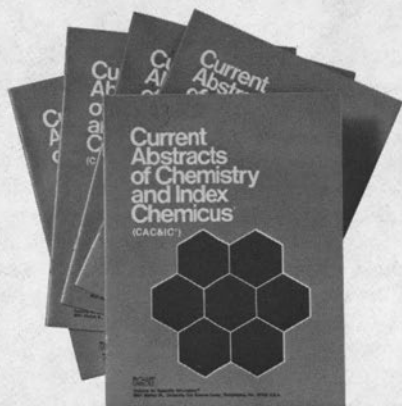


lectors and the *Dictionary of Paper*, and it is especially valuable because the order of senses within definitions places the meaning most relevant to bookbinding first, with alternatives for usage by bibliographers, librarians, collectors, and other users who will nevertheless discover great utility in this volume. The compilers, well known in conservation circles, sought added expertise from fellow conservators such as George Kelley for scientific terms; Harold Tribolet and Bernard Middleton; and bibliophiles like John Chalmers and Frederick R. Goff, who wrote the foreword. The simple yet remarkably clear and detailed illustrations drawn by Margaret R. Brown are a great enhancement, and bibliophiles will love the eleven full-page colorplates of sixteenth- to nineteenth-century bindings and marbled papers that make this attractive reference book a genuine bargain. The dictionary was published by the Library of Congress as part of its National Preservation Program and is a welcome contribution to a field curiously lacking similar high-grade reference tools.

Anyone consulting this book from a particular point of view will assuredly discover omissions. The slant towards bookbinding, for example, leaves out much which the bibliographer might want; the codicologist will want still more. The coverage is best for the Anglo-American tradition, with less detail and precision for Renaissance and medieval bindings, and still less for early codex forms and structures. Since it treats binding, although it contains considerable information on parchment, vellum, and leathers, it largely ignores the preparation of these materials for text block usage. Terms are presented in their most common form, that is common usage among English-speaking binders; inadequate attention is given to continental usage and parallel multilingual vocabularies. Consequently bibliographers will find this volume not as helpful as they might expect in describing regional styles or in standardizing descriptive terminology as a quasi thesaurus, in keeping with such models as presented by Thomas Tanselle for uniform pattern descriptors. Common usage

among binders is not necessarily preferred usage, so the compilers did not produce a dictionary that can be used as a thesaurus without further work on the terminology. Greater clarification for the fine distinctions between *signature*, *quire*, and *gathering*, for example, would have been helpful; the first two are referenced to the latter, but are not cross-referenced. That could lead users to see *gathering* as the preferred generalized term. Consequently, there are limitations on the use of this volume's content. Likewise, its appended "Sources and Bibliography" of 373 citations provides references (inexact, since pagination is omitted) to definitions and cannot be misconstrued as a core bibliography. It must be augmented by the bibliographies of Carolyn Morrow, Paul Banks, George Cunha, and others.

This dictionary is open to severe criticism from the lexicographic viewpoint. Headwords are not uniformly standardized infinitives but often are participles, and filing is often under the adjective modifying the keyword without inversion to control consistency (i.e., hot-melt and hot-setting adhesive, rather than adhesives, hot-melting and hot-setting). Consequently, not only are terms entered inconsistently, the organization lacks congruence. Information on adhesives, for example, is scattered throughout the book, and *see also* references are inadequate because they refer to other adjective forms, such as cold-setting adhesive. Senses are not always ordered clearly; at times historical usage is treated as most common, trade jargon is first in other cases without formal usage at all, and it is doubtful that binders commonly use some of the scientific terms included. There is an uneasy balance attempted by the compilers to merge usages among technical and scientific conservators and forensic chemists with the conservative informal language of tradespersons and craft binders as well as the terms of the industry. Sometimes definitions are ironically short, important for what they diplomatically do not say, as in defining Library Binding Institute "Class-A" standards; at other times, the "definition" is purely narrative history and encyclopedic, as for



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the entry on bookbinding itself. Since famous binders are included, other entries are biographic. Time references are often vague, such as *originally*, *formerly*, and *today*. Tabular information is in decimals; quantification data in the definitions are often in fractions. Lexical data are absent.

Despite such shortcomings from any one specialist perspective, this volume deserves proper credit for pulling together

and synthesizing myriad data from diverse sources, offering convenience for general reference, and a pleasing presentation in legible 9 point Times Roman on quality paper, in a durable, practical binding. Every binder, bibliographer, conservator, and reference librarian will have occasion to use this tool; it is an important contribution.—*Lawrence J. McCrank, Indiana State University.*

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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