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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Official Journal of the Special Libraries Association

VOLUME 38

March 1947

NUMBER 1

World References Atlases
Walter W. Ristow

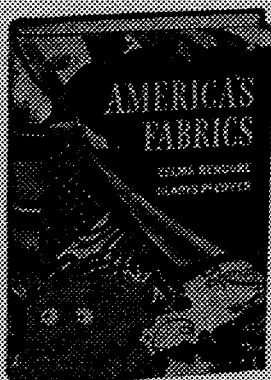
Some Notes on the Acquisition of Old Books
Francis W. Allen

A West-Coast Transportation Library
Melvin C. Oulhout and Jeannette M. Hitchcock

Special Libraries Association
Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention
June 10-13, 1947

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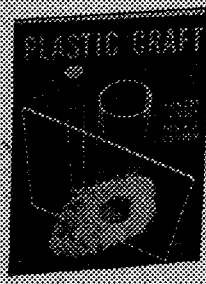
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Special Libraries

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*Indexed in Industrial Arts Index, Public Affairs Information Service, and
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WORLD REFERENCE ATLASES¹

A Survey of Current Resources

Edited by WALTER W. RISTOW

Assistant Chief, Division of Maps, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCTION

KIPLING once observed that "as soon as men begin to talk about anything that really matters, someone has to go and get the atlas." During the global war, this dependence upon atlases took on new importance. The many and varied demands for geographical information put existing works to a severe test. Based on these wartime experiences, and with an eye on future geographical needs, it may be well to survey our reference atlas resources.

An atlas, as everyone knows, is a collection of maps, customarily bound together, and frequently with an index of place names. The atlas may include maps of all parts of the world, or it may cover only one country, or perhaps, a single state, county or city. It may be planned primarily for locational use, or it may concentrate on physical, historical or economic maps.

The special atlases serve the needs of professional geographers, historians, economists and other researchers, by providing specific, and often detailed, information for a limited area or of a definite type. Most of us, however, look to the atlas primarily for assistance in

locating certain countries, cities, rivers or mountains. To fulfill these locational demands a general world atlas is needed, and our attention in this paper, will be centered on such works.

Libraries, schools and research organizations, perhaps, are most dependent upon a comprehensive reference atlas, but many government agencies, business concerns and travel companies likewise find frequent occasion to consult such works. Some more fortunate home libraries also include a large world atlas, which proves equally helpful to mother and father in clarifying the daily news, and to children in preparing their homework.

A good world atlas can serve also as an aid in geographical study and understanding, although the special atlases better fulfill this purpose. In the course of many compulsory trips to the atlas for locational aid, the layman cannot help but absorb some knowledge of world geography. Many modern world atlases include sections with physical and economic maps, as a further aid to learning geography.

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES FOR WORLD ATLASES

Atlases differ greatly in quality and usefulness, and the layman, or even the librarian, may often be at a loss in attempting to choose a good one. There is need, therefore, for a critical summary of the features which are desirable in a world reference atlas.

The general reference atlas, which will be considered here, consists, according to Joerg "of maps, predominantly locational, of the countries of the world

¹ This article previously appeared in the *American Society for Professional Geographers Bulletin*, September-October 1945 and was prepared by the A.S.P.G. Committee on World Atlas: Mrs. Clara E. LeGear, Library of Congress; Dr. Erwin Raisz, Harvard University; Dr. J. K. Wright, American Geographical Society; Miss Ena Yonge, American Geographical Society; Dr. Walter W. Ristow, Chairman.

on as large a scale and with as many names as the size of the atlases will allow . . . together with a sprinkling of maps illustrating other phases of geography such as climate, vegetation, economic resources, and human distribution."¹

In appraising an atlas it is necessary to consider first the content, second the cartographical presentation of the material, and third the format, or physical makeup, of the volume or volumes.

CONTENT

Maps. A world atlas, obviously, should include maps of all parts of the world, in sufficient number to insure reproduction on reasonably large scales, and with a goodly number of place names. No single atlas can be so complete, of course, as to include every geographical name on the earth. We can, however, expect a first-class work to be comprehensive enough to answer most of the locational questions which are basic to an intelligent understanding of world affairs.

The relative amount of map space devoted to the various parts of the world is another measure of an atlas. Most of the existing volumes are published primarily for domestic markets, and consequently maps of the homeland and possessions predominate. Many so-called "world atlases" consist principally of a series of large scale maps for the country of publication, supplemented by small scale maps of the rest of the world.

The ideal reference atlas, however, is international rather than national in its conception, and gives fair emphasis to all inhabited parts of the earth. Mere extent of land area should not be the prime consideration in assigning atlas space. More significant are the density of population and relative importance of the region in world affairs. Thus, it

is justifiable to have more maps of Europe, than of sparsely populated South America. However, no world atlas worthy of the name can expect to cover continents as large as Africa or South America with but one or two small scale maps.

World atlases usually include two types of maps, the general maps and special maps. The former provide locational information, and may be used for measuring distances, following military campaigns, laying out sales territories, planning trips or for countless other purposes. They may be of the purely "political" or general utility type, or they may, in addition, indicate relief. Most British and American atlases are in the former class, and the maps, without topographic shading or coloring, are for the most part, clear and legible. The continental atlas publishers, as a rule, show relief on their general maps, usually by skillful and artistic hachuring or shading. Although this frequently results in an over-crowded map, the serious atlas user usually prefers to have such relief indicated.

A great variety of information of a physical, cultural, economic, social, ethnographic, historical or political nature may be shown on the special maps. There has been a tendency, in recent years, to devote an increasingly greater proportion of the plates to such maps, and there is no question of the value of such information to the layman. However, if this practice results in a reduction in number or scale of the locational maps, it is not to be encouraged. The primary function of the general atlas as a locational aid should not be minimized. Large atlases cannot be revised annually, and inclusion of dated statistics tends to place them too soon in an "out-of-date" category. Limiting special maps to world and continental areas is perhaps the best solution.

Names and Index. Indispensable in using an atlas is a comprehensive index, which should include all the names ap-

¹ JOERG, W. L. G. "Post-war atlases: a review." *The Geographical Review*, v. 13, no. 4, October 1923, p. 584.

pearing on the maps. Several of the larger modern atlases include as many as 200,000 separate names. Complete world coverage cannot be expected in any one atlas, and large reference libraries frequently find it necessary to consult many sources in tracking down some elusive town or river. A careful and intelligent selection of names to be included on the maps is an important step in compiling an atlas. There is no established rule to follow in this beyond the general hope that all those names be included which, for some geographical reason, are likely to be looked for at some time or other.

In the spelling of geographical names, it is more or less established practice among modern atlas publishers, as far as practicable, to follow forms officially approved by the several governments. Exceptions are made in a few cases for names which have acquired firmly established conventional English forms. Thus *Rome* and *Munich* are usually given preference to *Roma* and *München*. For countries not using the Latin alphabet the problem is more difficult. The United States Board on Geographical Names has been set up to establish standards, and has already issued a number of bulletins. The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names serves in a similar capacity in Great Britain.

Most atlases have a reference grid with letters at the top and bottom and numbers on the side margins of the map to facilitate the location of names. Unfortunately, only a few atlases include latitude and longitude figures in the index, despite the many advantages of these more exact aids to geographical location. A desirable index feature in this age of radio newscasts is an aid to the pronunciation of place names.

Text. Some atlases include miscellaneous descriptive or statistical data, and a few are profusely illustrated with sketches or pictures. This practice is

especially common in this country where there is a popular, but erroneous, conception that "Geography" and "Atlas" are synonymous. In certain cases one suspects that the heterogeneous collection of trivia has been added largely to compensate for inferior or insufficient maps. In large reference atlases text and illustrations should be at a minimum, and principally introductory or explanatory to the maps. Descriptive sections, explaining projections or designed to facilitate the use of the atlas, are desirable text features.

CARTOGRAPHY

Many technical factors are involved in the compilation, drafting and reproduction of atlas maps, and the quality of the atlas is largely dependent upon the specialized knowledge and artistic skill which is applied to these various tasks.

Accuracy. Accuracy, clarity and general attractiveness are the features most desirable in atlas maps. The maps in world atlases, as a rule, are compiled from secondary sources, and the accuracy of the latter depends upon the quality of the original surveys. Greater accuracy can therefore be expected for such well mapped areas as western Europe than for portions of interior Africa, Asia or South America. The world map is constantly changing, in peace time as well as in war. Isolated regions are explored or mapped, new roads or railroads are constructed, and towns, and even countries, change their names. A conscientious effort must, therefore, be made by the cartographers to utilize this up-to-date information in compiling the atlas maps.

Skill in Generalization. Atlas maps are generalized pictures of the much more detailed and complex data that are presented in the maps, statistics, etc., from which they are compiled. Consequently the quality of an atlas depends quite as much on the skill shown by its makers in the art of cartographic

generalization as it does on their accuracy. This skill is not easily acquired; good judgment and long experience are needed to develop it.

Clarity and Legibility. The utility of an atlas, as well as its general appearance, is dependent upon the clarity and legibility of the individual map. Illegibility may result from an attempt by the publisher to overload the map with names, a heavy background of shading or coloring to show relief, or from poor selection or arrangement of lettering. The maps in some of the large German atlases suffer from such overcrowding, although, admittedly, this is offset by their comprehensiveness.

Use of Color. The use of color in cartography is primarily functional. However, the appearance of a map is closely related to the skill which is directed to the selection and application of the colors. Poor coloring not only offends the eye, but it may also obscure much of the underlying line work. "Maps should have harmony within themselves. An ugly map, with crude colors, careless line work, and disagreeable poorly arranged lettering may be intrinsically as accurate as a beautiful map, but it is less likely to inspire confidence."² Unfortunately few American atlases are distinguished by excellence of coloring.

To show political divisions, some atlases still employ solid contrasting tints for different countries or states, but there is an increasing tendency to use only colored border lines. The latter method is especially to be preferred on maps which also show topography.

The portrayal of relief on maps has always presented problems. Most of the continental European atlases use hachures or shading for this purpose, formerly in black, but more recently in gray or brown. Skillful and artistic

hachuring can create a third dimensional illusion with contrasts between hills and valleys, but it does not give any indication of true or relative elevations. Hachuring, furthermore, tends to obscure the lettering, especially in mountainous regions. This method calls for a high degree of skill, and there are few modern map-makers so trained.

A combination of contours and altitude tints, to indicate relief, is used in several modern atlases, notably the *London Times* and the *Great Soviet World Atlas*. By this method actual elevations are shown along each contour line, and, if the gradation of colors is skillfully and scientifically handled, it may give more than a suggestion of relief contrasts. The "color layer" method, however, lacks the third dimensional quality of skillful hachuring or shading. On the small maps in atlases, it should be recognized that both contours and color bands must be greatly generalized.

A color scale ranging from green (lowest) to dark brown or red (highest) is fairly generally accepted for portraying relief on atlas maps. The colors, though contrasting, should be harmonious and give an impression of a definite gradation from lower to higher elevations. Because of its greater accuracy in showing elevations, and the adaptability of the "color layer" method to modern multi-color offset printing, this system for indicating relief will perhaps become more common on atlas maps.

An ideal method of showing relief would be "a³ combination of hachuring or shading to represent relative slope, and altitude tints to represent absolute elevation . . . , (but) to apply that method successfully requires a highly specialized drafting and engraving tech-

² WRIGHT, JOHN K. "Map Makers are Human." *The Geographical Review*. v. 32, no. 4, 1942, p. 542.

³ JOERG, W. L. G. "The Development of Polish Cartography Since the World War." *The Geographical Review*, v. 23, no. 1, January 1923, p. 123.

nique that has been developed in only a few countries."

Map Scales. For general world maps the scales are largely dependent upon the size of the atlas plates. It should be noted that the linear scale varies in different parts of every world map.

The average atlas user, perhaps, would prefer to have all the locational or sectional maps on the same scale, and sufficiently large to insure a detailed and uncrowded map. Physical limitations, obviously, prevent the attainment of such an ideal. As between maps of the same area in different atlases, it does not follow that the largest scale map is necessarily the best, or includes the most detail, for much depends on the scholarship and skill of the cartographer.

Because of the great variations in area and population of the countries of the world, and their degree of importance in global affairs, differences in scale are justified. In a first class atlas we should expect to find, therefore, larger scales used for European countries than for Australia. However, to facilitate comparisons between the different countries, and to maintain a sense of proportion, it is advisable to have as few different scales as possible, and to have them all simple multiples of one another. All the sectional maps for a major geographical or political division should be on a uniform scale. Thus, if the United States is covered on nine separate plates, each should be on the same scale. In the case of India and China, where population density is offset by secondary economic importance, large scale maps might be limited to a few important sections.

For densely populated or especially significant areas requiring more detail, either one or more additional plates or large scale inset maps may be used. The latter can utilize space on the sectional map plates which would be blank or occupied by open water areas.

Projections. In recent months numer-

ous books and magazine articles have been published to reemphasize the age-old fact that it is impossible to represent accurately a portion or the whole of the earth's surface on a flat map. In atlases we must have flat maps, however, and projections are therefore necessary devices. A projection is a systematic compromise with accuracy of area or with true shade. The larger the area shown on the map, the greater is the distortion. The maximum difficulty is encountered in attempting to show the entire world on one flat map, and to meet this problem map-makers have, through the centuries, utilized a number of different projections.

During the past 50 years or so, the Mercator Projection has been used for world maps in many British and American atlases. Popular realization of the fact that our world is a sphere has led to many recent criticisms of this projection and its inevitable distortions in the polar regions. It is a mistake to damn the projection, however, for it is still best for general navigation, and within the equatorial regions is excellent for many purposes. The fault lies in using only one projection. A good reference atlas should use different projections, each best suited to the desired objective. For example, equal area projections must be used for showing distributions, while for special types of information a variety of other projections are available.

For regional maps, most projections give only minor distortions of shape and area. Much depends on the shape, size and orientation of the region mapped as to what projection is best employed. The Bonne, Sanson-Flamsteed and Lambert Azimuthal projections are most generally used for large scale atlas maps.

Plan for Locational Maps. Most atlases use one of two methods in the arrangement of the detailed maps. In the political-unit method, separate maps are devoted to different national divi-

sions or convenient groupings of countries. The regions beyond the borders of the featured country are often left blank or contain only sketchy outlines. Such a plan is objectionable if larger political units are made to conform to the size of the plates by being drawn on excessively small scales, or if small units are shown on disproportionately large scales. Such an arrangement also adds to the difficulty of studying areas traversed by international boundaries.

Many of the better atlases consider the sheet as the unit. Political boundaries are, of course, indicated but the map is carried to the limits of the sheet. Continents and large countries may be shown on several uniform scale sections in this method. Inset maps on a larger scale give more detail for regions which warrant such treatment. Where the sheet-unit plan is used for the sectional maps, it is desirable to have an index map on the verso of the plate to indicate the relationship of the major map to other areas. Several of the larger atlases follow this practice.

Another welcome feature, occasionally found on the verso or margin, is a list of the source materials utilized in compiling the map, and a "relative reliability" diagram. The latter "accomplishes to some extent what the careful historian or economist does with qualifying phrases in his text and appended critiques of his sources. Although this device is not often used at present, it may someday become a standard practice in cartographical scholarship where maps, especially maps covering considerable tracts of territory, are based on different source materials of varying validity."⁴

FORMAT AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Size and Weight. Atlases are characteristically large and, other things being equal, the larger the volume, the more useful it is likely to be. However some voluminous atlases harbor inferior car-

tography and an assortment of useless information behind an imposing bulk. Beyond certain practical limits, large size can be a positive disadvantage in an atlas, for it adds to the cost of the volume, and makes handling extremely inconvenient. The average buyer, it has been said, looks for an atlas which he can put on a standard library shelf, lift with one hand, lay flat on the ordinary desk, and inspect without either rising or craning the neck.

Stielers Atlas, weighing approximately 12 pounds, and 16 by 10 inches in size, fills most of these requirements. *The London Times Atlas*, in a one volume binding, weighs in the neighborhood of 17 pounds, which is near the limit of practicability. A one volume atlas is most desirable, although several excellent ones have been published in parts. *The London Times* and *Andrees* atlases have separate index volumes, and the *Great Soviet World Atlas* will include three volumes when completed.

Quality of Paper. A large reference atlas is subjected to considerable wear and tear. Because major works are revised or reprinted only at long intervals, the paper should be of high quality and resistant to chemical deterioration or a tendency to become brittle. Unfortunately, some otherwise excellent atlases have been short-lived because a chemically inferior paper was used. It is also important that the paper be of a quality to insure clarity of reproduction. Although a smooth paper usually gives best results, too glossy a surface is objectionable because it reduces legibility by causing glare.

Type of Reproduction. In most atlases published in continental Europe the maps have been reproduced from lithograph stones or steel or copper engraved plates, more recently by the latter method. There is no question about the fine detail which engraving reproduces, and this process is especially suited to the hachured maps found in

⁴ WRIGHT, J. K. op. cit., p. 529.

many European atlases. Engraving is a slow and costly process, however, and it becomes increasingly so as the demand for more color in maps increases. There was a trend, therefore, even before the war, toward the printing of maps by multi-color offset presses. British and American publishers have, for a number of years, produced atlases by offset printing. In addition to its advantages of greater speed and lower cost, offset lithography calls for less artistic skill in the drafting of the maps, and offers greater possibilities for the use of color.

Binding. Large size and constant use demand special care in the binding of an atlas. A durable buckram covering seems best for heavy library use. Full or half leather bindings, although attractive when new, dry out and flake with age and use. In many atlases the plates are printed on one side only. To permit the double page plates to open flat, tab binding is desirable, although this, of course, adds to the cost of the atlas.

Many of the large world atlases have been issued serially, as the individual maps were completed. Loose leaf bind-

ers are usually provided to preserve the plates until the entire volume is completed. A loose leaf binding permits addition of correction sheets and removal of plates for study or tracing or reproduction purposes. However, such binding does not stand up under heavy reference use, and, because of human shortcomings, plates are not always returned to the atlas after removal. For a reference library a permanent binding is to be preferred.

Cost. The cost of an atlas is a factor to be considered. In general, Americans have not been accustomed to pay as much for an atlas as Europeans, and, as a rule, they have been satisfied with inferior works. It is difficult to make any generalizations, but few individuals in this country would think of paying more than five dollars for a home atlas, and not many libraries, limited for funds as they usually are, can afford as much as twenty-five dollars for a good reference work. However, investment of some such amount in a first rate atlas would prove to be much less costly, in the long run, than purchase of several low-priced mediocre or inadequate works.

(To be Continued)

SOME NOTES ON THE ACQUISITION OF OLD BOOKS

By FRANCIS W. ALLEN

Cataloger, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

THE somewhat sporadic series of disagreements between librarians and out-of-print book dealers apparently stems more from a failure to understand each others' techniques than from any fundamental differences in ethics or business practices. Book dealers complain about library policies in payment of bills, not realizing the complicated system of funds and disbursement vouchers used in many libraries. On the other hand librarians are apt to

become vociferous in their denunciation of dealers when, for example, they fail to receive books ordered or when a catalog is arranged according to some unknown system.

DEALERS' CATALOGS

Many libraries depend largely on the checking of dealers' catalogs in their search for desired out-of-print books. At best an insufficient source, this practice is beset with many difficulties.

In the first place dealers who issue

lists or catalogs (only about 10 per cent do so) compile them for their entire list of customers; of this list libraries form a rather small minority. Collectors and other individual customers check their catalogs upon receipt and order by return mail, thus the life of the average catalog is about two weeks. Librarians, checking lists at their leisure and ordering sometimes months later, cannot reasonably expect to have their orders filled 100 per cent. This is, of course, not an invariable rule. Some catalogs have much longer useful "lives" and a few dealers, like Lull of Newburyport or Hartman of Biloxi, issue mainly for the library trade and have fewer private individuals as customers.

A constant checker of booksellers' catalogs will soon become aware of price fluctuations, varying from dealer to dealer and from one section of the country to another. For example, Boston prices are generally lower than those emanating from New York. Any such generalization as this, however, is fraught with danger as individual dealers in any locality may run counter to the general trend of the region.

Most librarians have now become used to the net price arrangement of the catalogs. A few, however, still cherish the idea that libraries are favored customers and should receive preferential treatment. While this theory may have some basis in fact in the new book trade, on the grounds of stimulation of the reading of the general public, in the out-of-print field, with only one copy of a book available at a time, such reasoning has no practical validity. All dealers recognize this and discounts are practically non-existent. Quoted prices are net prices, except to other dealers, and in many cases even there. Occasionally a library has been known to receive a nominal discount on a large order, but such cases are the exception rather than the rule.

A particularly sore point in the relations between booksellers and librarians

consists of the classification of titles in the catalogs issued. To the librarian the items often appear hopelessly jumbled, while the bookseller considers the arrangement clear and logical. The differences in opinion can again be found in the varying points of view. The librarian, in most cases, would prefer an alphabetical list by author, such classification being most economical in time for the searcher. The dealer, on the other hand, makes up his list with the interests of his entire clientele in mind, and arranges items by catchword. For example, he may have several customers interested in Thoreau, others in the White Mountains; keeping this in mind he will list all books by Thoreau under author, but all books about the White Mountains under subject. This method has numerous variations, but he advertises his wares for the majority of his customers and while it is regrettable, to his mind it is unavoidable that the library checker is inconvenienced by having to search the entire list.

However, in at least one respect dealers and librarians are in complete accord—the return privilege, which is the back-bone of the catalog trade. Here the librarian will find no fault. If a book is unsatisfactory in any way it may be returned without any qualms. This is the one way in which the bookseller maintains his good will.

ADVERTISING

Although almost all librarians check dealers' catalogs and some depend entirely on such checking to secure their wants, most will find it desirable to pursue a somewhat more active course in building their collections. The great medium for securing books wanted is that overworked American institution—the advertising field. Advertising for single copies of out-of-print books is, however, a rather different procedure from national advertising of new books, or, for that matter, of any other product destined for the channels of retail trade. The acquisition of second-hand or out-

of-print books is a specialized procedure involving a specialized field of advertising. There are enough variants in this procedure to warrant some discussion of the subject.

Of the thousands of booksellers in the United States perhaps 10 per cent issue catalogs; the remaining 90 per cent sit in their shops and wait for the business to come to them. One of the ways in which this business arrives is by way of the published "want lists" generally checked by the dealer against his stock as a part of his regular routine.

There is also another type of individual in the old book trade. This is the book scout, a lone wolf operator who carries no stock at all, but haunts the byways of the trade, picks up desirable items from salvage dealers, paper warehouses, or "sleepers" from booksellers' shelves, then sells these gleanings to regular dealers. A veritable beachcomber of the book trade, the scout is a valuable source of acquisition for the dealer and may become so for the library. He checks the published "want lists" regularly and covers the few shops which may not do their own searching from these lists.

A library with a list of books wanted has several choices at hand. What will be the best and cheapest way to secure the majority of the titles in a condition suitable for the shelves without rebinding? One of the first steps, especially used by smaller libraries, is to go to a local book dealer, new or second-hand. Here one may find some of the titles and even leave the list for the dealer to handle. This is advertising in a small way, for the dealer must check other sources if he is to locate other items. Hundreds, if not thousands, of bookstores claim that they will furnish any book, wherever or whenever printed. This is easily said, but the efforts made to follow through on such a claim vary widely with the policies of the store. The average bookstore, particularly one mainly handling new books, will often

advertise once in *Publishers' Weekly*, and if no answer is forthcoming from the trade he will report the book "unobtainable" and forget the whole thing.

There is, however, a group of dealers who have developed this service to a considerable extent. Called "search services" by the trade, possibly the best known and most efficient are *Stechert-Hafner*, *Seven Bookhunters* and *American Library Service*, all of New York. There are several other good "search services" in various parts of the country, either independent or operating as departments of larger establishments. Names and locations may be found in S. Adams, *The O.P. Market* (Bowker, 1943). Besides advertising for books wanted in the regular channels the majority of these specializing bookstores, periodically issue lists of their own, with which they circularize the trade as a whole. The library which submits its list to one of these dealers may be reasonably certain that his wants will be well attended and that every effort will be made to secure each and every title. It goes almost without saying that this type of service costs money and the dealer must be able to make a profit in order to remain in business.

Suppose, however, the library wishes to eliminate the middle man and deal directly with the bookseller who has the desired title in stock. (In direct transactions between library and bookseller the return privilege is also a usual condition, though not as invariably prevalent as in the catalog trade.) To find this dealer the library must do its own advertising. What are the possibilities?

If it so desires a library may print or mimeograph its own list of wants and circularize the trade much as do the search services. When the list is on a single subject this may work well, as dealers specializing in the field may be found in Adams' *O.P. Market* and the list restricted to these dealers. A disadvantage here lies in the omissions

from Adams. Many dealers list one or two special subjects, but may carry a good stock in other fields not listed. For example, S. O. Bezanson, of Boston, lists one specialty only, bookplates. He has in stock, however, very good collections on Arctic explorations and New Hampshire. A library sending out a "want list" on Arctic explorations would have no knowledge of Mr. Bezanson's special stock. When, on the other hand, the library's "want list" is general in character, it, as any privately printed list, is probably not the most economical form of advertising. Compiling a list of book dealers as recipients of the list would be a major task, and there is no record extant of the numbers and locations of book scouts.

There remain the regular channels of advertising for out-of-print books. Already used by some libraries the regularly published periodicals undoubtedly constitute the best and most widely used form of direct advertising of this type. There are in this country three periodicals which take care of almost all such advertising:

Publishers' Weekly, 62 West 45th St., New York, N. Y.

Want List, 95 Broad St., New York, N. Y.

The American Antiquarian Booksellers, 529 S. Melville St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Publishers' Weekly, familiar to all librarians, has the widest circulation of the three, although the coverage is split among publishers, libraries and stores dealing in old and new books. Its weekly "Book Exchange" carries want lists of dealers and libraries at ten cents a line.

Want List, also a weekly, has been published for the last six years by an enterprising young bookman, Mr. Eugene Thumim. It consists of practically nothing but the want lists of dealers and libraries, carrying only one or two pages of new notes and other forms of

advertising. Its circulation (approximately 2000) to the second-hand and out-of-print trade is probably double that of *Publishers' Weekly*. The difference between the two weeklies lies in the emphasis. *Publishers' Weekly* is primarily concerned with publishers' advertising of new books and is a trade paper in the book publishing field. It carries books-wanted advertising purely as an accommodation, whereas *Want List* is devoted entirely to the needs of the old-book trade, reaching the scout and the small dealers as well as the larger and more diversified bookstores. Cost of advertising is equal, ten cents a line.

The *American Antiquarian Booksellers*, or T A A B, a new organization, the brain child of Mr. Albert Saifer, proprietor of the World of Books Store in Philadelphia, is a monthly paper, and so far has appeared in mimeographed form only. Its chief advantage to libraries is on the expense side—there is no charge for listing. Its chief disadvantage is in limited circulation, only a few hundred copies. Subscription to T A A B Library Wants is rather expensive for booksellers and to date represents a very small minority of the book trade as a whole. It has its possibilities, however, and another year may bring a far different evaluation of its services.

This paper has attempted to clarify some of the problems of librarians in the acquisition of old books in this country. It has not touched on the kindred difficulties of securing books from foreign lands. The solution of the problems of foreign book buying involves other techniques and media of business transactions and is beyond the scope of this article. It is hoped, however, that the present discussion may be of some aid to librarians in their efforts to acquire domestic, but out-of-print books needed in building their special collections.

A WEST-COAST TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY

By MELVIN C. OATHOUT AND JEANNETTE M. HITCHCOCK¹

AT Stanford University there is an important but little-known library specializing in the field of transportation—the Hopkins Transportation Library.

Some years ago, a group of Bostonians brought to the attention of the Social Science Research Council the need for libraries in the field of transportation, and suggested that five centers be established throughout the United States: Boston, New York, Washington, Chicago and San Francisco. The group was apparently unaware of the existence of important collections in close proximity to four of these suggested centers. For example the Hopkins Transportation Library at Stanford University, 30 miles from the West Coast's largest ocean port and railroad terminal, has been a significant library since its establishment in 1892.

There is much historical and functional logic in the location of the Hopkins collection at Stanford, for both library and educational institution derive from the names and fortunes of a powerful Pacific financial quadruplex.

Early in August 1775, the Spanish ship *San Carlos* found its way into what is now known as San Francisco Bay, opening it to the commerce of the world. Another name for the *San Carlos* was the *Golden Fleece*—it was the custom for ships to bear two names—and perhaps an unforeseen significance lay in the fact that the *Golden Fleece* opened the Golden Gate to the gold markets of the world.

Years passed and California altered under the impact of a new industrial

civilization moving west. Immigrant trains came overland, clipper ships from the Atlantic sought the Pacific by the long route around the Horn, and transcontinental railroads were planned and built. Two of the many young men who came west to seek their fortunes were Leland Stanford and Mark Hopkins—magic names in railroad history, names of special importance in the annals of Stanford University and San Francisco. These names, together with those of Collis P. Huntington and Charles Crocker, became, depending upon the point of view, symbolic of dominant and romantic tycoons building the West, or of the "Big Four" of less generous interpretation. Each possessed in his manner the highly regarded democratic virtues of initiative and ambition, enabling them jointly to achieve remarkable heights of economic power. Their attentions swung in a wide arc from railroads to multifold interests surrounding this central focus. They devoted time to waterfront property in Oakland; they discussed the purchase of Yerba Buena Island in the San Francisco Bay channel; they founded the Contract and Finance Company ostensibly to underwrite the actual engineering of a difficult stretch of track. It was their conception which materialized commercially under the name of the Occidental Steamship Company, which eventually forced the Pacific Mail Steamship Company from serious Eastern foreign trade. Their persuasion with the governments, federal, state and local, was forceful.

Into this environment came Timothy Nolan, later formally adopted as Timothy Hopkins. Born in Augusta, Maine, in 1859 of immigrant parents, Timothy travelled west a few years later with his mother, who found work at the Hop-

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kins' home in Sacramento. His qualities of charm and intelligence attracted Mrs. Nolan's employers, and he remained with them after his mother's remarriage and departure some time later. He was educated at Sacramento and San Francisco, and prepared for Harvard, but was prevented from entering by ill health. Instead, he went into the Fourth and Townsend office of the Southern Pacific, and a general solid competence led him logically to the position of Assistant Treasurer, and, upon the death of Mark Hopkins, to that of Treasurer of the Company at the age of twenty-four.

Timothy Hopkins' curiosity about Western railroads and the intricacies of public policy concerning transportation began to fill the bookshelves of his home and his office. In 1883 this already imposing private library of railroadiana was given additional status by the acquisition of the well-known English collection of Frederick Broughton. By the spring of 1892, the number of books and pamphlets had reached 2000, and Hopkins felt that its value to academic research made formal presentation to Stanford University desirable. The Hopkins Railroad Library, as it was called in its early years, was intended by its founder to function both as a practical reference library for consultation by railroad officials, and as a source of data for the analysis and theory of railroad problems. These aims are equally valid today.

LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OUTSTANDING

There is no doubt that at the time of presentation the collection was as outstanding in its way as that of the railroad library of the Prussian Department of Public Works, its European equivalent. It became widely known in academic and technical circles after the publication in 1895 of Mr. Frederick J. Teggart's *Catalogue of the Hopkins Railway Library*. Previously, only the American Society of Civil Engineers had issued a railway catalog in America.

The growth of the Hopkins Library during the period from 1892 to 1896 was phenomenal, and the early reports of the Stanford Librarian show a greater number of volumes accessioned by the Hopkins Railway Library than by the University Library itself. By 1895, the collection contained almost 10,000 volumes and pamphlets, but from that time on, its growth was less rapid. Monetary support diminished as Mr. Hopkins' interests turned more to medicine and the Marine Station, but he continued to maintain some degree of interest in the Library bearing his name. A small appropriation, quite inadequate, was made annually from Library funds for the purchase of books and journals.

Until 1935, when Mr. Hopkins suggested that its scope should be broadened to encompass all fields of transportation and communication, railroad material was paramount in the collection. From that time the Library has assembled facts and opinions in a larger sphere which now includes automotive traffic, waterways, aviation, pipe lines, radio, television and postal service. In his will, Timothy Hopkins made definite provision for an annual sum to be used for administration of the Library; an amount which at the time seemed quite ample, although mounting costs since 1936 have rendered it inadequate for salaries, subscriptions to journals, book purchases, bindery charges and the purchase of equipment.

The original collection was chiefly notable for its intensive coverage of Pacific railroads. Files of manuscript correspondence to Mark Hopkins and Leland Stanford, rare pamphlets issued on the explosive political questions surrounding the Central Pacific and the transcontinental railroad, early reports, bond issues, legal documents—all these were collected and preserved by Timothy Hopkins and the Library he established. Additional materials of importance were those dealing with the railways of Europe, Asia, India and Africa;

while the acquisition of the Broughton Library, rich in the history and documentation of the British railways, gave Stanford's special Railroad Library an enviable international comprehensiveness.

The Hopkins Transportation Library's holdings now stand at approximately 19,000 volumes and 5000 pamphlets. If its early history is a record of the earnest bibliophilic efforts of one man, augmented by fortunate purchases in this country and abroad, the later story of the Library is a familiar one of attempts to remedy the omissions of past years and to gain some degree of inclusiveness in expanding its subject matter. The broadened spheres of the collecting policy of the Hopkins Library, concentrated during the early years of its existence on the growth of the railroads, have now placed more emphasis on the newer fields of aviation and motor truck transportation. As the patterns of railroad policy and operation have solidified within the economic structure of the nation, analogical phases of development in the newer industries offer important opportunities for bibliographical effort. The former theoretical and practical problems of railroad location are now paralleled by questions arising over the establishment of certificated air routes, feeder lines and air cargo practice. Issues of government regulation, direction and commission control in the aircraft and motor-vehicle industries mirror similar areas of discussion concerning railroads in the first decade of this century. Already the voluminosity of early special pleading by all facets of railroad opinion is being reproduced in the literature of commercial aviation. In general, the present period of growth of the airline industry can be described as the most vital for the collecting of source material. It is now that the national and international air transport policies are being congealed. The published evidence of the process—annual

reports, air freight and express tariffs, briefs before the Civil Aeronautics Board, government documents, conference proceedings and ephemeral material of all kinds—is being followed closely by the Hopkins Transportation Library.

PURPOSE OF THE LIBRARY

The Hopkins Library is primarily for the purpose of reference and research. We should like to see it become the center for economic transportation research in the West. In its wealth of diversified source information and secondary material, there is a lack of ideological bias or allegiance to particular points of view. The commendable tolerance which led Timothy Hopkins to include in his Library items which must have been anathema to him, such as the rare pamphlet, *The Octopus, a history of construction, conspiracies, extortions, robberies and villainous acts*, by John R. Robinson, and Robert S. Graham's anonymous *Central Pacific Railroad Company, facts regarding its past and present management*, is adhered to today in an effort to achieve the impartiality which is a true prerequisite of scientific scholarship.

The immediate resources of the Hopkins Library itself are augmented by access in the University Libraries to other collections which house transportation material; such as the Engineering Library, the Documents Room, the Hoover Library of War, Revolution and Peace, the Graduate School of Business Library, the Law Library, the Lane Medical Library and the Education Library. Correlation of all transportation subject matter at Stanford is being achieved through the preparation of a Union Catalog of transportation materials, to be located in the reading room of the Hopkins Library.

In a subject field with the fluidity and change of transport economics, it is true that demand tends to concentrate on the newer publications. But the present can only be interpreted cor-

rectly by a study of the past; it is from historical collections that important theoretical discoveries are made. A request for the time schedule of trains operating between Sacramento and Placerville in May 1850, or the search by the Civil Affairs Training School officers at Stanford during the war for pertinent material regarding enemy countries, emphasizes the importance of collecting and preserving all forms of

transportation literature. In the words of Dr. William Warner Bishop, "It is impossible to say, just because a book is old, that it is useless for many sorts of historical investigation. Anyone who thinks that it is possible to do research work only with 'modern' and 'up-to-date' books has completely missed the fundamental principle of research, which is progress by the historical method."

INFORMATION SERVICE FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

ASLIB'S TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By IVOR B. N. EVANS

British Author and Journalist

B RITAIN'S Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (ASLIB), was born in 1924. Thus the Twenty-first Conference celebrates ASLIB's first year of maturity; World War II prevented one Annual Conference. During these years ASLIB has become a power undreamt of by many. Its income is four times what it was three years ago, while for the second year in succession, there has been a 40 per cent increase in membership, with 750 members from industry, universities, libraries and institutions in Britain and throughout the world.

The General Secretary, Miss E. M. R. Ditmas, M.A., who was largely responsible for coaxing ASLIB through the very difficult early period of World War II, is its first Director. One of its most successful Departments is Publications, now under a fulltime Editorial Assistant. This Department issues the well-known *Journal of Documentation* under the editorship of Mr. Theodore Besterman. The Training Courses and Conferences on special subjects have become more and more popular as British firms are establishing special libraries at an increasing rate.

The new President, Sir Reginald

Stradling, C.B., M.C., D.Sc., F.R.S., is the noted building scientist. Under his guidance the Building Research Station grew powerful, and the Road Research Station was created in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. In his Presidential Address, under the title of "The Intelligence Group in a Technical Team," he said, "Intelligence Group are the key-words in a research team of scientific people. I am working for a very old industry and there are no trained men in the 'applied science' of building. The team, therefore, has to take in chemists, physicists, biologists, sociologists and economists. A most extraordinary collection for any applied science. It is very difficult to keep these people up to date, and the best workers are not often blessed with the facility for obtaining knowledge from other people. The Research Group's efficiency, therefore, depends largely on its Intelligence Service.

"An industry becomes more receptive to new ideas as it becomes more scientifically trained. Ideally, it requires a closely knit team of workers of widely different trainings, with each worker contributing to the body of knowledge. The research leader has to create con-

ditions under which his colleagues can work without frustration. The applied science team has, therefore, a very special need for intelligence work to keep an individual in touch with the developments in his subject."

Sir Stradling went on to discuss the requirements for intelligence work in the widest sense, and not "narrow library work." Intelligence Officers must "butt in" and know everyone's day-to-day requirements, external developments in the industry as a whole, and must win the trust of the rest of the team, becoming "the first approach for all both inside and outside the organization".

Those in authority must realize that the training of a senior in intelligence work "is every bit as lengthy and intense as that of a specialist research worker. The library is the natural center; it is belittling it by describing it as confined to the technique of cataloging and handling books. Its work is much wider". The officer must "get his stuff used and have both an active and passive attitude in information."

He emphasized that personnel must not be chosen solely by academic standards, since industrial and other experience, together with personal qualities, are even more important. The information officer must be able to "know intimately the resources at his disposal and understand what the research worker wants."

Mr. A. D. Roberts, of the London School of Economics, gave a paper on "The Preparation and Coverage of Critical and Select Bibliographies," a subject which has not been dealt with before in a general way. He discussed the need for select and critical bibliographies, since specialists rarely carry the correct reference in their head. This type of bibliography need not be complete, but should indicate the scope, arrangement and quality of the most important works, and may often be developed for abstracting services over a period of

years. He emphasized the importance of "good annotated bibliographies at the end of text-books."

Critical bibliographies published serially which covered writings of a year or years, fundamental surveys of the literature of a subject appearing as chapters in *Year's Work* and articles in periodicals next received attention. Mr. Roberts emphasized the "need for many more critical surveys of many more subjects to enable scientists and librarians to arrive quickly at the most important writings." Surveys should also be at different levels, besides that of the specialist, and deal with present trends and contain suggestions for the direction of future researches.

Finally, Mr. Roberts discussed guides to the literature on various subjects, showing the growth of a subject and explaining its present day status. "Very few such books exist," he said.

Discussion drew much attention to the subject of experts tending to become too specialized and seeing only special points. It was suggested that syndicates of four experts should combine to give their views instead of one. A representative from the American Embassy drew attention to the success of mixing specialists and librarians in the work of the Library of Congress. Attention was also drawn to the great importance of expanded bibliographies with critical notes.

Sir Arthur Fleming, C.B.E., D.Eng., Director of Research and Education, Metropolitan-Vickers Co. Ltd., and a world-famous electrical research scientist, spoke on "What the Industrialist Expects from an Information Service." He described the well-organized, 30 year old Metropolitan-Vickers Information Department. "A permanent feature," he said, "of a laboratory should be the Intelligence Service, searching for all work already done elsewhere, including physiological and psychological factors for efficient use of human effort, market research and patents."

Besides their *Technical News Bulletin*, his Company now issues *Industrial Digest* for factory executives. "Years of experience have shown that the Intelligence Section can be of considerable value as a link between design, manufacturing, commercial and research departments."

Professor R. S. Hutton, Emeritus Professor of Metallurgy at Cambridge University, a past-President and a member of ASLIB Council since 1924, read a paper on "Communication of Specialist Information to Business Executives," which discussed the old problem of bridging the gap between the academic world and the so-called "practical" man. He quoted from Lyon Playfair's Introductory Address at the Royal School of Mines in 1851: "The old and vulgar adage 'an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory' . . . believe it not! For a grain of theory, will, when planted, like the mustard seed of Scripture, grow and wax into the greatest of trees."

Professor Hutton mentioned the conflict between the broad, often self-achieved, education of the businessman and the narrower education of the "Honors School" scientist. He also contrasted the businessman's dislike of innovations, which disturb his smooth-running machinery, with the scientist's ignorance of the cost of the industrial application of his innovations. "Here," he said, "is where the Information Officer comes in. No information service can function satisfactorily if left in isolation. Specialists and administrative officers must confer regularly, keeping each other up to date."

Professor Hutton pressed for the proper editing and adapting of the information so that it could be presented to suit a varying clientele. "Much," he said, "could be learnt from the higher ranks of journalists." He drew attention to the many instances where research associations have established special sections for development and liaison work with their members. "We nowa-

days have a new grade of staff arising who might be termed 'communicators,' 'interpreters,' or 'expositors,' and who should possess the requisite qualities of character and vision to build the bridges across which will flow ever greater service of knowledge to practice."

Miss M. Gossett, of the Directorate of Atomic Energy Research, discussed the great lack for up-to-date bi- and multi-lingual technical dictionaries. Great stress in discussion was placed on accuracy, because a large proportion of the few such dictionaries extant were not all they should be. The difficulty in rapidly developing industries, where engineers in various firms might coin different terms for the same process, was debated.

The position in Germany and the prospects of the renewed publication of learned papers and standard books in German was discussed at some length with the representatives of the Control Commission.

Papers were also delivered on the position of Documentation in France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. Miss Esther Simpson, of the Society of Visiting Scientists, told how the Society had helped over 1000 foreign scientists visiting London to meet and discuss their work with British scientists. Mrs. Lancaster-Jones, widow of the former Keeper of the Science Library, spoke of the great foreign demand for Britain's scientific and technical books. Mr. Colin Dean, of the Crown Film Unit, told how a film library is run and spoke of the work of the Central Film Library and the films made about it. One of his illustrative films was about the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Dr. L. J. Comrie, Director of the Scientific Computing Service, and a pioneer in mechanical computing, discussed and demonstrated the calculating machines likely to be of use to the information officer.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 10-13, 1947

DRAKE HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

WAR and all its problems are behind us, and as special librarians, we are facing a world of "New Frontiers." That is the theme around which the program of S. L. A.'s 38th Annual Convention is being built this year. Many new techniques have been developed through the exigencies of war, and to many of us they are truly "New Frontiers." Many of us know little of them, but to all who plan to come to Chicago in June an opportunity will be given to hear about them and to see them in operation.

The one General Session, outside of the two Association meetings, will be devoted to a symposium on "Techniques for Recording, Reproducing and Transmitting Information" under the leadership of Herman Fussler, Head of the Microfilm Laboratory of the University of Chicago and, also, a member of the faculty of the Graduate Library School. Photographic, audio and electronic techniques will be discussed, as well as the older and more familiar, yet not too well-known, methods of print and near print. Each subject will be handled by a speaker familiar with his field from a practical viewpoint—not a scientific nor a technical one.

The Groups, likewise, are building their programs around the framework of our theme. Punch card methods, as applied to library techniques, are definite frontiers many want to explore. The Science-Technology Group is planning a symposium on that subject. The "Evaluation of Services" meeting will be continued under the joint auspices of the Business, Financial, Insurance and Science-Technology Groups. Other Groups are planning as helpful and interesting discussions.

Even the exhibits will dove-tail into

the general scheme. The Committee in charge is busy lining up companies which have new equipment that will demonstrate methods discussed in the various programs.

Chicago's hospitality—famous through the years—will be much in evidence. Local firms are rising to the occasion with invitations to the various Groups for luncheons, teas and receptions. Northwestern University Chicago Campus Libraries will be hosts at a reception on the last afternoon. We want you to enjoy the convention! We want you to have a grand time in Chicago! We want you to like our city! We feel sure you will.

The only note of apology we offer is due not to our lack of planning, but to general conditions resulting from the difficult years behind us. We wish we could offer single rooms to all who want them. They are not available, however, which means we must ask you to find a congenial S. L. A.-er with whom you can share a room.

The Drake Hotel will be our Headquarters. The Knickerbocker, which is directly opposite the Drake, will serve as Auxiliary Headquarters for the Science-Technology Group; and the Maryland Hotel, two blocks distant from the Drake, will take the overflow. Reservations have been coming in rapidly, and the local Reservations Committee is now assigning rooms as promptly as it can. If you have not placed your reservation, do it **AT ONCE**. The days are slipping by and May 5 is our absolute deadline with all hotels. No reservations can be made after that date!

MARION E. WELLS,
Convention Chairman
The First National Bank
of Chicago

KEEPING IN TOUCH

YOUR President has taken to the road again, this time visiting the Michigan, Milwaukee and Illinois Chapters. Either special librarians appreciate presidential visits, are curious to see if a president is like other people, or are just good actors. Your President likes to believe the first, has a sneaking idea it may be the second and wonders about the third. Every Chapter has had a record turn out for the presidential meeting which is personally very flattering, for this creates in the presidential heart a warm glow of friendship and an intense pride in our Association.

Detroit welcomed me with sunshine and open arms. Breakfast with two members of the Board and luncheon with all the Board enabled me to become acquainted with those guiding the Chapter. Visits to three of the libraries presented an opportunity to see Detroiters at work and a dinner showed them—over 100—at ease.

The Chapter was the guest of the Ford Company and the meeting started with a delicious dinner at the Dearborn Inn. Following this, four Ford buses took the group to the Rotunda where a technicolor movie, *Men of Gloucester*, was shown. This was its first release. While there, your President spoke briefly to the members. The group was then taken by buses to the Rouge plant for a trip through the steel mill. Again, the buses were waiting to return the group to the Dearborn Inn where there was a scattering to private cars and a general exodus. It had been an enjoyable and interesting evening.

A few minutes after arrival at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, a clamorous knock came at the door. Opening it revealed a sheepish but beaming Chapter President and Convention Chairman who had planned to meet the train but as there is more than one station, the result was not the expected one. However, they more than made up for this disappointment by taking your

President to a very attractive restaurant. (NOTE: find out about this place in June and be sure to eat there once at least).

That evening there was a dinner meeting of the whole Convention Committee. Plans were discussed and progress reports made. The amount of work that has been done, the thoroughness with which each phase has been covered, are amazing and deeply appreciated.

Unfortunately, work on the Convention necessitated that much of your President's time be spent in Chicago so that her visit to Milwaukee was all too brief, being just long enough to have a quick glimpse of the Public Library and to attend a meeting. Milwaukee is one of the smaller Chapters but interest in S.L.A., desire and ability to participate in Association activities does not depend upon size, as is demonstrated by this Chapter.

Back in Chicago, more time was spent on Conference plans, such as scheduling the meetings, looking over hotel accommodations, reserving rooms for luncheon meetings, etc. The Groups seem to have their programs well lined-up which is a great help to those making arrangements. Don't miss the Convention. It will be a good one with many thought-provoking and stimulating subjects up for discussion, as well as time allowed for entertainment and individual plans.

Entertainment over the week-end was even beyond the well-known Chicago hospitality, with dinners, theater, pleasant and congenial company.

Monday evening was the Chapter meeting at which your President spoke to some 100 members all of whom were very interested in S.L.A. affairs. After the dinner, there was a short meeting with one of the Convention committees.

This trip has brought home very forcefully the delight with which a Chapter plans for a presidential visit,

the desirability of keeping members informed of National and Chapter activities, and the interest in Association problems evidenced on the part of the

individuals. No wonder S.L.A. is a strong and growing organization. Let us keep it that way.

BETTY JOY COLE, *President*.

EVENTS and PUBLICATIONS¹

ANALYSIS OF RAILROAD OPERATIONS (New York, Simmons-Boardman, 1946. 306p. \$5), by Joseph L. White, Executive Officer, Office of Defense Transportation, offers the railroad official or analyst of railroad operations a sound interpretation of the accounting classifications established for the railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission. With the aid of a series of color charts and numerous tables, schedules and photographs illustrating the various phases of railroad operation, the entire subject is made clear and precise even for those without accounting training.

* * *

A MANUAL OF SPECIAL LIBRARY TECHNIQUE (52 Bloomsbury St., London, England, ASLIB, 1945. 112p.) with particular reference to the technical special libraries of commercial and government establishments, by J. E. Wright, is excellent for the librarian or company wishing to have concise information on the establishing of a special library. This little book may be borrowed upon request from S.L.A. Headquarters, 31 East Tenth St., New York 3, N. Y.

* * *

The October 1946 issue of the *Educational Record* includes an article on library recruitment by Harry C. Bauer, Associate Librarian of the University of Washington. Aimed at encouraging young people with science backgrounds to choose careers as Science Librarians, the article is addressed to parents, teachers and vocational counselors so that they may know of the opportunities in library science.

* * *

"The Periodical Literature of Physics: Some of its History, Characteristics and Trends," by Duane Roller, appears in *American Journal of Physics*, 14 (5): 300-308 (1946). The author makes the following proposals: Microphotographic reproduction of archive articles; a more comprehensive program of survey articles; improvement in and wider use of abstracts; and an international abstract journal affording complete and prompt coverage and preferably employing an international auxiliary language.

A bibliography by Katherine McNamara, the "Boston Metropolitan District, Its Physical Growth and Governmental Development," has been reviewed by Rebecca B. Rankin in the *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, Fall, October-November-December 1946, p.39-40.

* * *

Copies of the new ROSTER AND HANDBOOK OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER of S.L.A. may be obtained for 25 cents each from Miss Doris V. Stratton, Order Department, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles 13, California.

* * *

Social and economic conditions in Liberia are presented by Raymond L. Buell in African Handbooks No. 7, *LIBERIA: A CENTURY OF SURVIVAL 1847-1947* (Philadelphia, Pa., University of Pennsylvania Press, 1947. 140p. \$1.50)

* * *

Estelle Brodman, Assistant Librarian, Columbia University Medical Library, has written an article entitled "The Discovery of Surgical Anesthesia; William T. G. Morton 1819-1868," which has been reprinted from the *Annals of Dentistry*, Vol. 5, no. 3, December 1946, pages 76-90.

* * *

FACTS AND FIGURES ON GOVERNMENT FINANCE, 1946-1947, compiled by the Tax Foundation, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, is a new volume in a series inaugurated by the Tax Foundation six years ago to inform the general public of current and historical data relating to the fiscal operations of government. This volume like others in the series gives factual up-to-date information on federal, state and local governmental finances in all their various phases.

* * *

The fourth edition of the orientation text, *ENGINEERING PROBLEMS MANUAL*, by Forest C. Dana, published by McGraw-Hill, is a thorough revision inspired by wartime experience. Based upon practical engineering situations, the book aims to coordinate the work in physics and mathematics and to develop good habits of work and study, emphasizing the necessity for a high degree of clearness and accuracy in calculation.

¹ Where it is possible the Editor has given prices for publications noted in this section. The omission of a price does not necessarily indicate that the publication is free.

UNION LIST OF SERIALS IN THE LIBRARIES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT (Detroit, Mich., Wayne University Press, 1946. 670p.), compiled as a joint project of the Michigan Chapter, Special Libraries Association, and the Detroit Public Library, is a record of the serials in the 39 library collections in metropolitan Detroit as of January 1943, with the addition, in a few instances, of certain important sets acquired since that date.

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MODERN PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY (London, W.1, England, Institute of Petroleum, 1946. 466p. £1 1s) contains 35 separate articles written by experts in the various branches of the petroleum industry, thus presenting an overall picture as well as making available to the expert in any one branch a knowledge of those engaged in other phases of petroleum technology.

★ ★ ★

KLYSTRON TUBES, by A. E. Harrison of the Electrical Engineering Department at Princeton University, presents the theoretical basis for the electrical characteristics of velocity modulation tubes. Its purpose is to supply the background which is required for the realization that the behavior of these new tubes is not mysterious but merely different from the older types that did not involve transit time effects. Published by McGraw-Hill.

★ ★ ★

GAS TURBINES AND JET PROPULSION FOR AIRCRAFT, by G. Geoffrey Smith, editorial director of Flight and Aircraft Production, which was mentioned in the December 1946 issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, is available from Aircraft Books, Inc., 370 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y., as well as from the London publishers.

★ ★ ★

Of interest to the scholarly world, libraries, collectors and the public will be the appearance of Vol. I, No. 1 of the Harvard University Bulletin (Cambridge, Mass., Winter 1947. 127p. \$4 per year. Single numbers \$1.50 per copy). This publication, to be issued three times a year, is designed to acquaint its readers with the experience, ideas and resources of the 82 libraries of Harvard University.

★ ★ ★

PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING (New York, Ronald Press, 1946. 736p. \$5) is a textbook that is basically sound and highly teachable from the standpoint of content, organization, approach, point of view and technique. It discusses the principles of marketing from the viewpoint of today and tomorrow.

★ ★ ★

THE INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO 1947 (Chicago, Ill., Ziff-Davis) contains concise biographies of the world's outstanding personalities. Intending subscribers should communicate direct with the Ziff-Davis Company for price and any other information desired.

★ ★ ★

The December 1946 issue of the *Journal of Documentation*, official organ of ASLIB, contains the first comprehensive list of British medical libraries compiled in nearly 20 years. Another article of outstanding interest contained in the same number is "The Aslib Microfilm Service: The Story of its Wartime Activities," by Lucia Moholy.

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The **GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE** is the title given to the proceedings of a Conference sponsored by the Economic and Business Foundation (New Wilmington, Pa., April 1946. 75¢). The booklet contains addresses delivered at the conference by A. D. H. Kaplan, S. M. Brul, Boris Shishkin and Donald V. Sawhill.

* * *

TEXTILE CHEMICAL SPECIALTY GUIDE (New York, Textile Book Publishers, Inc., 1947. \$5 in U.S.A. and Canada; \$6 in foreign countries) covers the market of the chemical auxiliaries used in the textile industry. Edited by H. R. Mauersberger, technical editor of *Rayon Textile Monthly*, it is a buyers' guide to textile chemical products.

* * *

ANUARIO DIC, a new Chilean general reference manual, may be obtained by writing to the Director-General of Information and Culture, Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins 1452, Santiago, Chile. \$3.

* * *

CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (New York, Harper, 1947. 760p. \$4), by Paul F. Gemmill and Ralph H. Blodgett, brings up to date the study of the economic maladjustments that were dealt with in the first two editions of this work, and gives special attention to wartime and postwar developments.

* * *

The WORLD OF LEARNING (London, Europa Publications Limited, 1947. 532p. \$12) is a guide to the academic life in every country, containing a wealth of detail concerning universities and colleges, learned societies, scientific institutions, literary associations, libraries, museums and art collections.

* * *

A statistical calendar of public library systems in cities of 35,000 to 49,999 population has just been issued by the Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D. C. The purpose of this preliminary statistical compilation is to present basic data on the resources, use, finances and personnel of a group of public library systems in the United States (excluding those under county administration). It is intended primarily for the use of libraries and municipal authorities responsible for the administration of library service in urban areas. The data have been taken from reports sent to the U.S. Office of Education in a Nation-wide survey of public libraries. Prepared under the direction of Willard O. Mishoff, Specialist in Public Libraries.

* * *

THIS IS HISPANO AMERICA: CUSTOMS, LANGUAGE (New York, Academy of Languages, 1946. 98p. \$1), by Francisco Ibarra, provides Americans with an authentic readable guide to the bewildering maze of etiquette south of the border. Illustrated with cartoons.

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PRICE LIST OF AMERICAN STANDARDS (New York, American Standards Association, 1947. 23p.) is a revised list of standards including those developed under war procedure and now approved for peacetime use. Available to interested trade, technical and governmental bodies and individuals without charge.

* * *

INFORMATION SOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES (Columbus, Ohio, Bureau of Business Research, Ohio State University, 1946. 59p. 25¢) is one of the first of a series of Ohio Small Business Handbooks being prepared by the Bureau. It is an annotated index of principal sources of information on the variety of problems involved in establishing and operating a small business.

* * *

Modern methods of roadway and track maintenance are described and illustrated in the new edition of **ROADWAY AND TRACK** (New York, Simmons-Boardman, 1947. 350p. \$5), by Walter F. Rench, who served for 25 years in a supervisory capacity on the Pennsylvania Railroad. While written particularly for track supervisors, roadmasters and other maintenance officers, the book contains information of interest to transportation and mechanical officers who require a working knowledge of the fundamentals of maintenance-of-way practice.

* * *

S.L.A. members will be interested in an article, "What do Members of the A.C.R.L. Want?" by Charles Harvey Brown, in the January 1947 issue of *College and Research Libraries*. Dr. Brown, who was 1945-1946 Chairman of the Association of College and Reference Libraries' Committee on Relations with A.L.A., reports here the results of a survey made by questionnaire to A.C.R.L. members in the summer of 1946. Respondents to the questionnaire were generous in their praise of S.L.A. and its organization, and the report cannot fail to be valuable in connection with the investigations now being conducted by the S.L.A. Committee of Five.

* * *

LIBRARY AND REFERENCE FACILITIES IN THE AREA OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 2nd edition, revised under the direction of Harold O. Thomen, contains an expansive subject index and a convenient name list. It describes 189 libraries, giving address, name of librarian, regulations and resources. Published by the Library of Congress.

* * *

A new monthly publication, *Institute of Petroleum Review*, issued by the Institute of Petroleum, made its appearance in January 1947. It is intended to supplement the field covered by the Institute's *Journal*, by providing articles and information outside the estab-

lished scientific and technological scope of the *Journal*. Full members of the Institute will receive the *I. P. Review* free. Non-members may obtain an annual subscription at £1 1s and single copies at 2s per copy.

* * *

Ellen Jackson has described a "Notation for a Public Documents Classification" in *Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Bulletin* No. 20, July 1946 (36p.) This formula for assigning call numbers has been devised to designate by code the relative position of all public documents in a collection arranged alphabetically by issuing office.

* * *

The Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal, discusses "Business Libraries" in the December 1946 issue of its bulletin. Its stated purpose is "to show why every business place needs a library of useful books, and how to make the best use of it." The bulletin covers the general need for a special library, questions of size, how to start the library, the needs of the library in terms of space, control and librarians, the use of periodicals, pamphlets, indexes, etc., and the executive's part. The entire bulletin is a fine tribute to Mildred I. Turnbull, Librarian of the Royal Bank of Canada.

* * *

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS OF ORGANIC PIGMENTS (N. Y., Wiley, 1947. \$6), by L. S. Pratt, gives a comprehensive and critical discussion of organic pigment colors, drawing together valuable information of interest to scientists, technologists and students concerned with coloring agents and their use. An exhaustive list of pigments is considered, and testing and identification methods are given.

* * *

Bibliographies:

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS. Compiled by M. Beuick, (47 Claremont Ave., New York 27, N. Y., Marshall Beuick, 1947) 40p.

PROTEINS AND AMINO ACIDS, 1946. Compiled by Columbia University Medical Library. (N. Y., Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1947) 8p.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CANADIAN SOCIAL WORK. Compiled by P. G. Pratt. (Montreal 2, Canada, McGill School of Social Work, 1946) 11p.

TVA PROGRAM; a Bibliography of Selected Readings. (Knoxville, Tenn., Tennessee Valley Authority, 1946) 29p.

UNION-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION. In *Selected References*, November 1946. (New Jersey, Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University) 4p.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ON THE GERMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY; a Bibliography. Compiled by L. W. Greene. (54D Oak Grove Drive, Baltimore, Md., Author) \$1.

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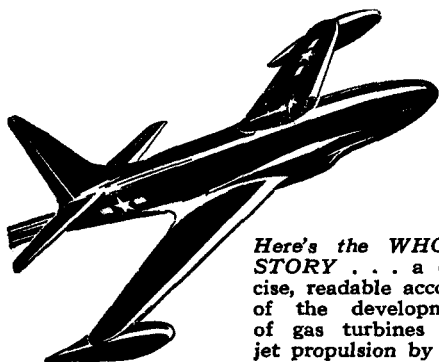
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Announcements

American University Offers Summer Training Course

The third summer training course in the Preservation and Administration of Archives for custodians of public, institutional and business archives will be offered by The American University in Washington, D. C., with the cooperation of the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records from July 28 through August 23, 1947. The program will provide lectures on the most important phases of work with archives and manuscripts. Ernst Posner, Professor of History and Archives Administration, The American University; Oliver W. Holmes, Program Adviser to the Archivist of the United States; Morris L. Radoff, Archivist, Maryland Hall of Records; and other members of the staffs of the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records will serve as instructors. The fee for the entire course will be approximately \$40. Detailed information may be obtained by writing to Ernst Posner, School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, The American University, 1901 F Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Refresher Course in Government Documents

A Refresher Course in Government Documents given by Mrs. Virginia Fishel and Miss Adaline Bernstein, instructors at Carnegie Library School, under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Special Libraries Association, was completed March 4, 1947. The course, consisting of four two-hour lectures, reviewed basic government documents as sources for reference work, and brought out how these sources could be more fully used. It also called to the attention of the class some of the lesser-known government publications. The class was held on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 P. M., starting February 4, at the Carnegie Library School, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Albert Daub of Stechert-Hafner, Inc. Leaves for Europe

Mr. Albert Daub, General Manager of Stechert-Hafner, Inc. and Hafner Publishing Company, Inc., left Monday, February 17, for Europe where he expects to remain until the first of June. The primary purposes of the trip are to renew contacts with publishers and booksellers abroad, to purchase material for distribution to American libraries, to complete plans for the re-establishing of a branch office in Germany as soon as possible, and to be on the lookout for titles in the field of science that would lend themselves to publication in this country in English by the Hafner

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Publishing Company, Inc. Mr. Daub's itinerary will take him to Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland and England.

S. O. S.

The January 1947 issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* is already out of print. Please send any extra copies to S.L.A. Headquarters, since they are needed for new members of the Association.

Oberly Memorial Award

The Oberly Memorial Award is given every two years to that American citizen who compiles the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or the related sciences.

The eleventh award for 1945-1946, will be made in the spring of 1947. Those interested in competing for the prize should send four copies, either typewritten or printed, to the Chairman of the Committee before April 1, 1947, with a letter stating that they are being entered in competition for the award.

The members of the Committee are Mary G. Burwash, Mrs. Reba Davis Clevenger, Marvin A. Miller, Margaret C. Schindler, Lillian J. Swenson, and W. P. Kellam, University of South Carolina, *Chairman*.

Drexel Institute of Technology Scholarships

The School of Library Science of the Drexel Institute of Technology will grant three scholarships for the academic year 1947-48. Application should be made to the Dean of the Library School, Drexel Institute of Technology, 32nd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania, before May 1, 1947.

The scholarships provide for tuition fees in the amounts of \$275, \$200 and \$100. The \$200 scholarship is the gift of the Drexel Library School Association and will be awarded to applicants for the Course in Special Library Service. Applicants for these scholarships must be graduates of approved colleges or universities and have attained high ratings.

Assembly of Librarians of the Americas

An Assembly of Librarians of the Americas will be held at the Library of Congress in the spring of 1947, as a part of the cultural relations program of the Department of State, in cooperation with the governments of the various Latin American republics. Approximately thirty leading Latin American librarians have been invited to attend, through the assistance of the Division of International Exchange of Persons, and the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation. Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, will ask a considerable number of librarians from the United States and Canada to participate.

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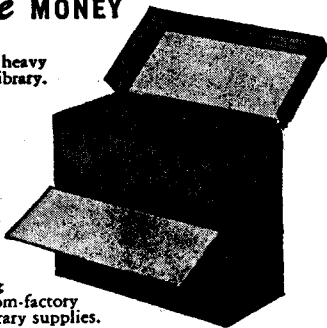
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The Assembly will open on May 12, 1947 and will continue for a period of eight weeks. The activities will assume three phases: first, the four-week conference in Washington, from May 12 through June 7; second, a three-week tour of United States libraries; third, attendance at the A. L. A. Conference in San Francisco, California, from June 29-July 5.

Classification Schedule and Subject Authority List

The *Army Medical Library Classification*, developed by a Committee of librarians and doctors who are specialists in medicine and its related sciences, was made available to the Army Medical Library last summer. The Committee decided that the classification would not be distributed until after a tryout period of one year. The Library began to apply the classification on October 1, 1946 and is pleased to report progress in its application. Although not available for general distribution, the schedule may be examined at the Library.

The *Subject Authority File* is being compiled but will not be ready for publication for some time. In the meantime both AML subject headings and classification numbers appear on the medical series of Library of Congress printed cards which originate in this Library, and are available for distribution. Subscriptions for the series and all inquiries regarding these cards should be addressed to the Card Division of the Library of Congress.

Surgeon General's Reference Library

Administration of the reference library physically located in the Office Service Division of The Surgeon General's Office was transferred to the Army Medical Library January 26, 1947. This library has been maintained as a reference service for medical officers. A large percentage of its holdings of about 1500 volumes were on permanent loan from the Army Medical Library. It includes medical reference works, legal statutes, and annual reports of the Surgeon General from 1868 to the present.

S. L. A. Plans News Letter

Early in April a sample newsletter will be issued to the membership from S. L. A. Headquarters. This will contain Chapter, Group and Committee notes and news of general interest. If the response to this initial letter is favorable, others will be issued, if possible, at regular intervals.

Mrs. Winifred Forwood, S. L. A. Publications Assistant, would greatly appreciate contributions of importance to the membership. These should reach her at Headquarters not later than March 25, 1947.



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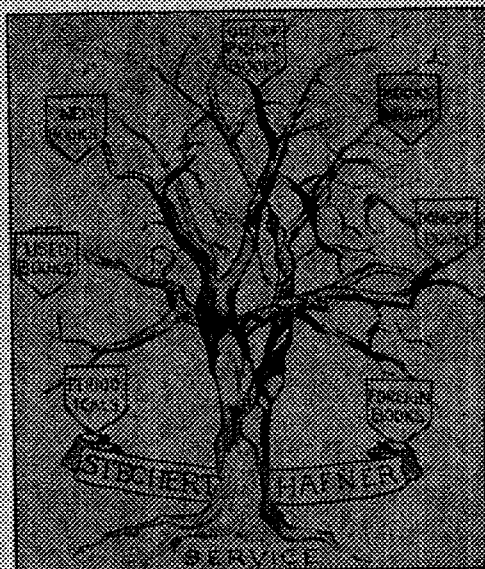
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