

the book is based upon British conditions. It draws heavily on the author's personal experience and the examples are, therefore, examples of British conditions, some of which may be different from those in this country. The terminology will not always be familiar to the American reader. For example, the number of scientific staff in private industry research is given as an F.B.I. estimate, which refers, of course, to an estimate of the Federated British Industries, not to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It is difficult to determine the most likely field of usefulness of this book, which falls between available treatments of how to perform research, how to organize for research and how to administer research. Perhaps it will be of most interest to an audience, as the author suggests, of "young people just entering the field of research"; or, as Dr. J. W. T. Walsh in the foreword suggests, to business men who influence or control research programs.—*Ralph R. Shaw, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library.*

## Books for the Army

*Books for the Army.* By John Jamieson. New York, Columbia University Press, 1950, xiv, 334p. \$4.50.

This is the best and most complete history of the Army Library Service in World War II which has yet appeared, and it is likely to be the definitive one. Jamieson, on the staff of the headquarters unit of the service, has had a foundation grant to prepare this volume, and he has apparently used all available sources of information. The result is a readable history of the Army Library Service between 1941 and 1946, which names names and dispenses an even-handed justice in pointing out failures as well as achievements. All in all, it is a creditable piece of work and one which is valuable to the profession as it should be also to the Army in guiding the future development of its library program in peace or in war.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the Army Library Service in the last war was that it existed at all, operated as large a program as it did (1200 librarians, \$21,000,000 and 225,000,000 books), and performed its job as well as it did under the circumstances. Wartime demands on the service were always greater than could be satisfied, often completely unpredictable, usually world-wide in scope, and not seldom yielded only to approaches far different from traditional library practice. Add to this the simple fact that the provision of books and libraries was inevitably a very small part of the war effort.

But the simple fact remains that many men had access to very few or no books for many months, and that for most men "... the fail-

ures of the library service overseas overshadowed the successes." (p. 11). In part this was due to mistakes in the over-all organization of the Army Library Service and in part to the slowness with which the people in that service solved the problems they faced. The major successes in this latter direction were two: the magazine kits and Armed Services Editions distributed directly to all units overseas by mail, and the packaging and processing of hard-covered books into self-contained units before delivery to the individual installation. Neither of these were worked out early in the war or carried as far as they might have been, but they solved the worst problems.

Jamieson discusses these various developments in a roughly chronological order and in sufficient detail to give the background of each development. He displays a nice style of writing and exhibits skill in presenting the complicated organizational picture of the Army clearly. He exercises restraint in discussing such imponderables as whether soldiers' reading tastes were altered by wartime library service, and he views the record of achievement with a reasonably objective attitude (for example, in recognizing that some of the heavy use of Army libraries was due to the absence of other recreational facilities). There are a few blemishes, such as direct quotations from unnamed sources, uncritical acceptance of testimony and some typographical errors; but, so far as this reviewer is able to judge, the facts given are correct.

This is a good summary and review of the operations of the Army Library Service. As a technical report it could serve any country

(and indeed the German Army Library Service was similar in many ways to our own). As an historical review it does not treat of the solutions which might have been used. But

as far as it goes, *Books for the Army* does well a job that needed to be done.—*Herbert Goldhor, University of Illinois Library School.*

## Books About Printing and Bookmaking

*Abriss der lateinischen Palaeographie.* By Hans Foerster. Bern, Paul Haupt, 1949, 212p. Swiss Frank. \$20.00.

*Mainzer Probedrucke.* Ein Beitrag zur Gutenberg-Forschung. By Carl Wehmer. Munich, Leibnis-Verlag, 1948, 60p., 12 illus. \$6.00.

*Gutenberg und der Weg des Abendlandes.* By Konrad F. Bauer. Frankfurt A. M., Verlag der Goldene Brunnen, 1949, 18p.

*Typographic Heritage.* Selected Essays by Lawrence C. Wroth. New York, The Typophiles, 1949, 162p. (Typophile Chapbook XX.)

The books selected here for review are each, in a different way, of interest to the scholarly librarian who likes to keep informed of progress in the history of printing and bookmaking.

The circle of men and women among librarians interested in the development of handwriting and the deciphering of medieval texts is not a large one, but it exists. Its members will be glad to learn of the appearance of Professor Hans Foerster's manual of paleography. In several regards this is a modest work. There are no plates or text illustrations; they were left out with the deliberate intention of keeping the price down. Also, the author is modest in his own approach to the many debatable questions in the field of Latin paleography. On each of these questions he takes great pains to acquaint the reader with every published opinion by every authority of rank and caliber. It cannot be said that this method promotes easy reading, and recognition of the bold outlines of evolution is not greatly facilitated thereby. But the presentation is a conscientious and fair one which leads the reader into the very midst of the stream of discussion and analysis. The English and American literature, it should be added, is not as familiar to the author as the continental European one. The significant study of Felix Reichmann on the book in ancient Rome and the studies of Stanley Morison and of H. S.

Steinberg on the late medieval writing master are not mentioned.

The strength of Hans Foerster's *Abriss der lateinischen Palaeographie* lies in the presentation of reasonably up-to-date knowledge in skillful condensation. The history of paleography as a discipline, the contribution of the important masters of the field and their publications, the various materials and forms of the written record, notes on the scribe, on the medieval book trade and on libraries, together with the detailed analysis of the evolution of the Roman alphabet in its various forms, make this a worthwhile book to own and to study.

Dr. Carl Wehmer's *Mainzer Probedrucke* contains sensational revelations to everyone who has followed serious research on the origin of European printing with movable type. Wehmer's study is based on the careful scrutiny of a small group of loose leaves, rescued from an unknown early binding, in the Jagellonian University Library in Cracow, previously described inaccurately as "Donatus Fragments." Actually, the leaves turn out to be simultaneous trial impressions of three different publications, one indeed a Donatus, the other one a trial proof of the so-called Astronomical Calendar for 1448 and the third a trial proof for a hitherto not recorded 40-line Bible project, all in the type, more or less, of the 36-line Bible. They are excellent, clean impressions, pulled on the loose pages of an old account book of a Mainz cloth merchant of the latter fourteenth century. Careful study of the type shows beyond doubt that the three projects for which these proofs were made were initiated after the securely dated "Tuerkenbulle" of 1456. The seemingly unsurmountable difficulty which this discovery presents is the fact that the so-called Astronomical Calendar for 1448 (CW 1285) has been considered by its discoverer, Professor Zedler, and by every subsequent authority, as securely dated—on astronomical evidence—for the year 1448. Therefore, it has been al-