

the title and in general its promise is borne out by the text.

The 24 chapters and two appendices are grouped under five general headings. Part 1 is devoted to the functions of the technical report in industry and government. Part 2 deals with preparing and processing the reports and covers details of writing, illustrating, editing and duplicating. Part 3 is on distribution, Part 4 on filing, and Part 5 on use. Every aspect of the technical report is treated, from writing to reading.

There are two general areas in which this collection of papers can be criticized. The first is the manner of address. The audience is for the most part the amateur in each of the many aspects of writing, duplicating and handling of reports. In a few instances this results in such inanities as "Grammar is a subject that cannot be avoided in report writing" and "No filing system needs to be completely original." With respect to the first example, in particular, some compromise might have been safely made with the objective of comprehensiveness by omitting some of the lessons in sophomore English composition. Several books and many articles on technical writing are already available, as witness the bibliography of 71 items on pages 59-62.

The preoccupation of the book with the mechanics of preparing and handling technical reports may explain the second area of deficiency as viewed by this reader, namely the function or role of the technical report in the broad field of documentation of research and development. What is its relative importance in the whole field of scientific and technical literature? Is it primarily a necessary instrument of the research team in industry or government? Is its origin and continuance due primarily to security classification of information, both private and public? Or is it a handy device for applying the "need to know" philosophy of distribution? Perhaps this book is not the appropriate place for discussion of such questions.

Despite these general weaknesses, the work will be welcomed by many. In a book which is a composite of the writing of 23 different authors one does not expect uniformity in content, emphasis or quality of writing. Directed at every person—from typist to executive—who has anything to do with technical

reports, this collection of papers achieves a surprisingly even quality, due no doubt to the work of the editor. It should be an invaluable aid, especially to those individuals in company and government departments who have a wide range of responsibility for technical reports.

Among a number of very useful chapters, three might be mentioned by way of specific examples. "Illustrating, Duplicating, and Binding the Technical Report," by B. A. Jones, is packed with information and might well be expanded into a book. "Cataloging Government Technical Reports," by Bernard Fry, is a compact discussion of points particularly relevant to the subject. And "How to Locate and Obtain Government Information Reports," by Patricia Brown, would be a happy contribution to the volume if it consisted only of the table on "Document-Issuing Government Agencies." The subjects of many other chapters are treated with equal effectiveness.—*Herman H. Henkle, John Crerar Library.*

## Naval Academy Library Classification

*Classification Schedules BB-BK: Aeronautical Art and Science, U. S. Naval Academy Library. Compiled by James M. Saunders. [Annapolis, 1954. 88p.]*

In evaluating any classification scheme, one must take into consideration several items of prime importance. These are: Was the scheme developed for a particular library and, if so, is it easily adaptable to other libraries' needs? Is it a practical scheme? That is, is it expandable? Can new developments be placed logically and simply within the framework? Is it easily understood and usable by persons without special training or experience in the subject field?

To all of these questions, the answer concerning this classification is, yes. This scheme, developed by James M. Saunders, is primarily a classification scheme to which letter and numeral notations have been added. There is, for this reason, no evidence of forcing to obtain mnemonic notations or to arrange for systematic evenness in the expansions.

Primarily, this classification of "Aeronautical Art and Science" was prepared for one purpose: providing a satisfactory scheme for a particular library—that of the United States Naval Academy. The fact that it is a good scheme adaptable to the needs of other libraries is a gain in this phase of professional tools.

Mr. Saunders has divided his scheme into four general parts: (1) BB and BC—general, (2) BD and BE—engineering, design and powering, (3) BF and BG—commercial and industrial, and (4) BH, BJ, and BK—military. General works, works on aeronautical education and schools, works on airmanship, flight technique, air navigation and civil aviation law are classified in the general section. In the second section are aeronautical engineering, aerodynamics (applied), aircraft and airport design and construction, power plants, auxiliary machinery and fuels, and general flight propulsion. In section three, commercial and industrial aeronautics, manufacture and trade, airline and airport operation and management and materials on airways in general are found. Section four covers the air forces of the world and their organization, materiel, bases, administration, personnel, supplies, and communications. With this section are classified also works on air warfare, strategy and tactics, weapons, and topics on gunnery.

As will be immediately noticed by those familiar with the two major schemes, Dewey and the Library of Congress, this bringing together of all material in the field of aeronautics is different from both those classification systems. In the Library of Congress system general aeronautics is classed in TL 500 to 830 in the general section devoted to "Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aeronautics"; military aeronautics is classed in the military engineering section UG 630 to 635 and naval aviation is in the VG section devoted to "Minor Services of Navies." In Dewey general aeronautics is found in the section devoted to "Other Branches of Engineering," while military aeronautics is squeezed in with "Military Signalling." Material on air forces of the world is in 358.4, while books on aerial warfare must be divided to class with the emphasized topic in aeronautics or with the history of the war to which it pertains.

For the library of the United States Naval

Academy, or for any library where emphasis must be placed on special technologies, grouping them together rather than spreading them widely as applications to other technologies, Mr. Saunders' classification fills a gap of long standing. For other libraries, careful examination of this scheme will result in a better understanding of one of the fields of technology that has expanded and is expanding far beyond the imaginations of the compilers of Dewey and Library of Congress.

From the point of view of practicality an index to this classification scheme would have made it easier to use, but in his preface the compiler states that by making use of the outlines an index is unnecessary. This is true in a limited sense. However, to make use of the outlines and the classification scheme without an index requires a thorough knowledge of the scheme and experience in its application. To assist the user, there have been inserted numerous cross-references and directions to compare other sections before final classification of the material being handled is determined.

In his assignment of notations Mr. Saunders has adopted the two letter and up to four digits system, similar to the Library of Congress notation, that has been in use at the Naval Academy for the past 15 years. For libraries using the Library of Congress classification, adoption of this scheme would simply mean an assignment of an unused first letter such as K, W, X, or Y in place of B. For libraries using Dewey the problem is more complex, making classifiers regret that we do not calculate on a duodecimal basis or in even larger units so that the base of Dewey could have been broader. As a guide in the future development of Dewey, however, this aeronautical classification will undoubtedly be of major assistance.

In his assignment of notations the compiler has also attempted to allow generously for interclassification and expansion. Large blocks of numbers have been left unassigned in sections where great development seems likely to occur; smaller blocks are unassigned in less important areas, and in nearly every instance there is at least one unassigned number between those assigned.

Other expansion possibilities are provided for in the use of Cutter-type class subdivi-

sions, such as in BG 131, "Special Airlines and Carriers" where subclassification is by name A-Z, e.g. American Airlines, .A6; Trans-World Airlines, .T7. Extremely close classification is indicated throughout, as for example in BH 401 (special U. S. Air Force groups, wings, etc.) which is subarranged by similar Cutter-type divisions: .B63 (special bomber wings) which in turn is subdivided, Wing 4, Wing 22, etc., and .F43 (special fighter groups) which is subdivided Gp7, Sq21, etc.

Mr. Saunders is to be congratulated on a magnificent piece of classification work. In it is evidence of much study and thought on the problems facing the classifier, and additional evidence of consultation with aeronautical engineers and aviation specialists. Only the addition of an index to aid those classifiers less adept in using a scheme such as this would have improved it.

Correspondence with the compiler reveals that copies have been mailed to a number of libraries throughout the country that have sizable aeronautics collections, and it is assumed that requests for copies will be honored as long as the supply lasts.—George R. Luckett, U. S. Naval Postgraduate School Library, Monterey, Calif.

## Paperbounds in Print

*Paperbound Books in Print*. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1955. 100p. Paper, \$1.

*Paperbound Books in Print* is a diminutive counterpart to *Books in Print*, but it contains more than meets the eye at first glance. It presents on 100 pages (they look like less because a non-bulking, slick paper stock, identical to that of *Library Journal*, has been used) 4,500 entries of paperbacks ranging in price from 25 cents to two dollars, arranged by subject (pages 3-41) and by author (pages 42-100).

The subject arrangement follows an alphabetized list of 54 subject headings ranging from Archeology to World Affairs. Some of the headings are subdivided; for instance, Art, where books are grouped under History and Criticism, Artists, Design, and Pottery. Catalogers and classifiers may take exception to this rough subdivision, but this tool was

not primarily designed for them, as they will only infrequently have the opportunity to catalog these materials.

It was not designed even for librarians in general but rather for purchasers of paperbacks, here and abroad, for all those who distribute and sell them commercially, and finally as a means of advertising for paperback publishers. The cover pictures of some of the books are shown throughout the text. It will serve librarians because it is the first and only exclusive American paperback bibliography to date and will help them in making a selection of available paperbacks from the majority of publishers in the field (44 are included). They will use it also as a location list of publishers' addresses, and as a price list, and it will be an eye-opener as to how much can be had for comparatively little money. It will help college and university librarians in their attempts to buy fewer copies of class-assigned materials by pointing out to the teaching faculty that such titles can be bought by the students.

Bibliographically, this publication presents original as well as reprint materials—which distinguishes it from Orton's *Reprints in Series*—and summarizes the monthly listings as found in *Publishers' Weekly's* "Mass Market." Planned to appear three times a year, it promises to keep the paperback record up to date.

The subject index is selective and omits crime novels, most fiction except a few representative titles, science fiction and Western stories which can be found under the author entry in the second part of the book. Actually, there are more paperbacks in print than those listed, because the entries were chosen on the basis of titles that the publishers submitted and paid for entering in the title index. The front inside cover carries a short write-up on "How to Buy Paperbound Books," which is too brief to have much meaning for librarians. The back inside cover contains a list of publishers and their addresses. While not a complete tool, *Paperbound Books in Print* should help to open many a library shelf to a yet unused or sparsely used medium of communication which commercially has already found its mass audience.—Frank L. Schick, Wayne University Library.