

Review Articles

Virginia Almanacs

A Checklist of Virginia Almanacs, 1732-1850.

By James A. Bear, Jr., and Mary Caperton Bear. Charlottesville: Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia, 1962. xlv, [208]p. \$7.50.

Because the almanac played a significant role in the reading habits and in the history of printing of the United States, studies such as that of the Bears are welcome. However, coming as it does, just prior to the publication of Milton Drake's comprehensive bibliography of American almanacs, 1639-1875, some may wonder if it is essential.

Checking the Bears's work against the collection of Virginia almanacs at the American Antiquarian Society, this reviewer found only one almanac not listed, the 1808 issue of *The Good Old Virginia Almanack* (Richmond, Thomas Nicolson). We also have several issues of *The Farmer's Calendar*, by Charles Egelmann, which, although printed in Baltimore, nevertheless bear a Virginia

imprint. The Bears, no doubt, excluded this on the basis of its origin, a decision certainly defensible.

Proofreading slips in numbers 165 and 290 resulted in the exclusion of the location symbols, although Massachusetts Worcester Antiquarian Society has both. In addition, MWA is not credited with owning the following items: 33, 36, 37, 38, 103, 147, 209, 240, 253, 256, 284, 294, 329, 339, 348. This library also possesses variants of 245, 336, 340, and 354. Except for 245, they are minor. The first, however, is worthy of mention as the variation is to be found in the imprint, "John Warrock for Frederick A. Mayo."

Generally, the compilers have produced a useful work of limited scope. The biographical notices of the philomaths are a happy addition.

In truth, half a loaf is better than none, but it is sad that the publications of so distinguished a society appear in such shabby raiment.—*M. A. McCorison, American Antiquarian Society.*

Books Briefly Noted

Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1961. Washington: Library of Congress, 1962. 153p. \$2.00.

Calendar of Meetings of National and Regional Educational Associations, 1962. Washington: The National Catholic Educational Association, [1962]. 44p. \$1.00.

The Catholic Bookman's Guide, a Critical Evaluation of Catholic Literature, edited by Sister M. Regis. New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., [1962]. 638p. \$12.95.

The Communities of New York and the Civil War, the Recruiting Areas of the New York Civil War Regiments, compiled by C. E. Dornbusch. . . . New York: The New York Public Library, 1962. 31p. \$1.50.

The Contemporary Arts, by Bartlett H.

Hayes, Jr. [Chicago]: ALA in Cooperation with the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., [1962]. 20p. (Reading for an Age of Change, No. 2) \$.60.

Directory of Finnish Research Libraries, abridged English ed. of the Guide to the Research Libraries of Finland, compiled by Eino Nivanka; translated by Leena Salminen. Helsinki: The Council of Research Libraries in Finland, 1962. 52p. 300 FMK.

Garrick and Stratford, by Martha Winburn England. New York: The New York Public Library, 1962. 72p. \$2.50.

The Guide to Catholic Literature, 1961. . . . Joseph A. Placek, editor, Josephine Riss Fang, assistant editor. Villanova, Penna.: The Catholic Library Association, 1962. 355p. \$9.00.