

interprets their value as historical source material.

L. Quincy Mumford, librarian of Congress, reviews the past and envisions future developments of importance, for the National Union Catalog of the Library of Congress. He stresses the great value to scholarship which would come from the publication of the fifteen million entries as yet unpublished for pre-1952 books in United States libraries. He foresees in the future "the possibility of making a machine-readable National Union Catalog available to other bibliographic centers throughout the United States."

"Form and Substance" by Ralph R. Shaw questions too ready an acceptance by librarians of innovations and trends without thorough analysis of their implications. He cites also the tendency to accept statements as being authoritative and applicable anywhere, when they are actually unsubstantiated and may apply only to special situations. He says: "The purpose and justification for storage, retrieval, and transmission lies in the intellectual record. . . . We need to manage the record and to handle the physical objects in which it is stored and to transmit them. But when that becomes the end, that is ultimate replacement of the thought by the thing." This article deserves wide reading.—*Rudolph Gjelsness, University of Arizona.*

Science, Humanism and Libraries. By D. J. Foskett. New York: Hafner Publishing Co., 1964. 264 p. \$4.50.

This book is a collection of seventeen papers and articles produced between 1951 and 1962 by the librarian of the Institute of Education, University of London, whose work as a member of the (British) Classification Research Group is well known.

The main theme which runs through the essays is that of the problem of the communication of specialized information. The by now well worn discussion of the "two cultures" topic provides the matter for the first and last sections of the book. Here Foskett is on the side of the angels and submits that there is no fundamental cleavage between science and humanism, though the tendency towards division must be constantly guarded against in the instruments of communication, libraries and librarians.

After a plea for style in scientific writing, the author, in the essays which follow (apart from those dealing with special classifications), points out the necessity for positive, active collaboration by the librarian in the provision and dissemination of information. Foskett's background as a special librarian, now in a professional library in a university, leads him, in the articles on documentation needs in libraries for various disciplines, to be pleasingly careful in discussing, for example, the role of the librarian as "information scientist" and his responsibility in different situations and fields of knowledge, to ensure that the literature which he collects is used. A problem in the United States is that of the use of research libraries (mostly university) by special libraries which are under no obligation to reciprocate. This use can vitiate service to the primary clientele and while here the large libraries have had to take steps to ensure that this particular demand for service does not get out of hand, it will be a while before such a state of affairs comes about in England, for the "trade balance" seems to be in favor of the special libraries, as Foskett reports.

The group of articles devoted to the construction of special classifications are expositions of the author's view, and doubtless that of the CRG, of the need for a faceted classification as the basis of all methods of information retrieval. Cleverdon's results with the Cranfield experiment did show however that some modification of Facet was needed to make it comparable with other classification systems.

Most of the observations concerning the problems, human and material, which librarians are having to face are already familiar to thinking practitioners, though the solution of those problems lags of necessity for lack of the necessary money. For example, in discussing documentation in the social sciences, to which he has already devoted a book, Foskett calls for the kind of information services which subsidized scientific research and industry now take for granted. The degree of bibliographical control which can be exercised by the librarian is a function of the money which can be put into the effort, and resources which can be devoted to this have to be related to provision of the material, too. It is now possible to make the purveying of information ser-

vices pay a profit, and a number of rather dubious organizations are exploiting this. Government departments too, are setting up costly documentation services in parallel with libraries, in order to minister to special needs where existing libraries cannot undertake the job. Perhaps this is an acceptable solution where the economic situation permits, but one sympathizes with the problem in England where it is ruinously wasteful to set up information services divorced from the depositories of that information. Foskett's tart remarks on costly American retrieval schemes and their relative inefficiency doubtless reflect his frustration at the lack of funds for documentation purposes in England.

If the "two cultures" split cleaves librarianship it will not be Mr. Foskett's fault.—*Francis A. Johns, Rutgers University.*

American State Archives. By Ernst Posner. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964. xiv, 397p. Appendices, bibliography, index. \$7.50. (64-23425).

In this volume Ernst Posner, dean of American archivists, has done for the archival profession what many librarians have been hoping for from the Survey of Library Functions in the States. Here is a solid, meaty, succinct, and searching analysis of the development of state archival agencies, their present status, and their future prospects. The volume is based, in the large sense, on Dr. Posner's long and distinguished experience in the archival profession both here and abroad, and more specifically on a twenty-month study which took him to archival institutions in forty-nine of the fifty states, and also to Puerto Rico. The survey was conducted under sponsorship of the Society of American Archivists and financed by a grant from the Council on Library Resources.

The first thirty pages of *American State Archives* are devoted to a general survey of the origins and growth of state record-keeping practices in this country, beginning with the colonial period. The legislative establishment of official archival agencies is shown to have begun in 1901 with the establishment of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. In short succession other southern states followed suit. Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ten-

nessee, Arkansas, Delaware, and Maryland all followed the pattern of establishing an agency with responsibilities for historical and archival matters. Within a short time state libraries undertook archival programs in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, Iowa, and Indiana; and historical societies established archival departments in Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. More than thirty years would elapse, Dr. Posner points out, before the federal government followed these precedents with establishment of the National Archives.

Dr. Posner devotes the major portion of his book to a state-by-state analysis of the development of archival agencies. He provides the reader with a great deal of specific and useful information on each and successfully meets the great challenge of doing so without the reader feeling overwhelmed with details and statistics. He demonstrates a keen understanding of the reasons for the great variety of administrative structures in the archival field and properly attributes this disparity to those individuals whose leadership in their states and in the nation has helped make archives a true profession rather than a file-keeping function. Especially valuable in these state summaries are Dr. Posner's candid comments on the existing shortcomings of each agency. These are judicious and temperate and rest on the fundamental premise that while certain archival functions are essential to good record-keeping, there are a variety of legitimate ways in which these functions may be administered.

The concluding portion of the book consists of a summary of findings, a discussion of current trends in archival programs, and most important of all a set of standards for state archival agencies. These are a model of their kind. The standards were developed by Dr. Posner and the survey committee and have been approved by the Society of American Archivists. There are also appendices giving a glossary of archival terms, comparative statistical data on budgets and professional salaries in the states, a basic bibliography of writings on public archives administration in the United States, and a useful index.

This is a first-rate book in every respect. It is a welcome reminder that real contributions to knowledge rest on thorough research, objective appraisal, and mature