

# Reference Books of 1951-1952<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

AS IN THE first article in this series<sup>2</sup> this survey is based on notes written by members of the Reference Staff of the Columbia University Libraries. Again, it is not a comprehensive listing of recent reference books but a selection of a few of those which seem to have special importance for reference workers in university libraries. Emphasis has been placed on scholarly and foreign materials and as in the previous article titles in the sciences and technologies have reluctantly been omitted. These latter are dealt with in other listings and while they should be represented in a well rounded list, space and time have prevented their inclusion here. Code numbers (such as A527) have been used to refer to titles in the *Guide to Reference Books*<sup>3</sup> seventh edition.

## Bibliography

A change in the form of Swiss national bibliography should be noted. Through 1947 the current bibliography was covered by *Das Schweizer Buch; Bibliographisches Bulletin der Schweizerischen Landesbibliothek: Le Livre Suisse* (A527) with the *Systematisches Verzeichnis der schweizerischen oder die Schweiz betreffenden Veröffentlichungen* of the Schweizerische Landesbibliothek of Bern (A520) serving as a subject index to it and as a short title catalog. The 1931-40 volume of the

*Systematisches Verzeichnis* has been completed and the *Personenkatalog, Ortskatalog, and fascicules O, Allgemeine Literatur; 1, Philosophie; 2, Religion, Theologie* of 1941-47 have been received.

Beginning with 1948 a new publication of the Schweizerische Landesbibliothek of Bern will record Swiss works, the *Schweizer Bücherverzeichnis, Répertoire du livre suisse, Elenco del libro svizzero*, the first volume of which covers 1948-1950, is a list by authors and anonymous titles, with indexes of collaborators and catch-word subjects. It cumulates the titles listed in *Das Schweizer Buch, Livre suisse*, series A & B from 1948-1950, and includes publications appearing in Switzerland and those published in other countries by Swiss authors or relative to Switzerland. Annuals and periodicals are listed as well as books. Future cumulations will probably cover five years.

The 1950 issue of the *Index to New Zealand Periodicals* (E93) incorporates a new section comprising a *Current National Bibliography of New Zealand: Books and Pamphlets*, which gives in dictionary form (author, title and subject) entries for approximately 270 titles of works published in New Zealand or dealing with New Zealand. The main entry gives author, title, place, publisher, paging, illustration, subject heading and Dewey classification number but not price.

John Harris's *Guide to New Zealand Reference Material and Other Sources of Information* was issued in 1947 in mimeographed form (A567). A second edition, issued in printed form, includes new material up to the end of 1948, omits super-

<sup>1</sup> Mention of a title in this article does not preclude comment in the "Review Articles" section.

<sup>2</sup> *College and Research Libraries* 13:30-36, Jan. 1952.

<sup>3</sup> Winchell, C. M. *Guide to Reference Books*, 7th ed. Chicago, ALA, 1951.

seded works and makes some corrections. The first supplement compiled by A. C. Bagnall follows the same form and adds publications of 1949 and 1950. Arranged by the Bliss *Bibliographic Classification* with a subject and author index, this comprehensive listing of New Zealand reference material in books, periodicals, and official documents is a valuable addition to guides to reference books, and although Mr. Harris has left New Zealand it is to be hoped that the New Zealand Library Association will continue the work.

### *Libraries*

Three guides to the resources of libraries, one in this country and two abroad, while different in scope and purpose will prove useful to libraries and scholars in many countries. *American Library Resources; a Bibliographical Guide* by Robert Bingham Downs is a bibliography of bibliographies rather than an actual description of resources, as it indicates holdings of libraries only in so far as there are bibliographies listing them. Bibliographies, union lists, surveys, checklists, catalogs of particular libraries and special collections from all parts of the country are included, whether published in periodicals or separately as books or pamphlets. In a few cases unpublished bibliographies are also listed. In using this comprehensive guide it must be remembered that other libraries may have collections of equal or greater importance for which no lists are available.

UNESCO's *Répertoire des bibliothèques de France* in three volumes is a directory and survey of the libraries and documentation centers of France. The first volume, *Bibliothèques de Paris*, covers the Bibliothèque Nationale, and university, general and special libraries giving for each such facts as name, address, clientèle served, hours of opening, published and unpublished catalogs, conditions of lending, number of

volumes, administration with names of those in charge, history, publications, etc. Volume two, *Bibliothèques des Départements* lists the same type of information for the libraries outside of Paris; volume three, *Centres et services de documentation*, gives under subject, details about the centers and services existing to furnish information in specialized fields.

UNESCO has also issued the *Répertoire des bibliothèques du proche et du moyen-orient* by Joseph A. Dagher which is the first comprehensive survey of libraries in the Near and Middle East. The information given for each library follows much the same outline as that for the previous item making due allowances for the difference of locale and customs, and includes date of founding, authority, catalog, specialties, conditions of use, etc.

### *Religion*

The appearance of volumes seven and eight, covering the Gospels, of the projected twelve volume *Interpreter's Bible* should be noted. Because of the inclusion of parallel texts of the King James and revised standard versions and of the general articles and exegesis, this set will be useful on the reference shelves of many general as well as theological libraries.

More than 14,000 items on the Jansenist controversy in the Catholic Netherlands and Liège are listed in the *Bibliotheca Janseniana Belgica* by Léopold Willaert. The main part of the work is a chronological record of both books and periodical articles published from 1476-1950, with library locations for many items. These are preceded by a list of some eighty libraries owning extensive collections of Jansenist material; and general works, such as dictionaries, bibliographies, printed library catalogs and periodicals. An author index is included and a subject index is planned.

## Political Science

The *International Political Science Abstracts*, issued by the International Political Science Association and published with the assistance of UNESCO and the Coordinating Committee on Documentation in the Social Sciences, is designed to provide an abstract journal in the fields of political science and international relations. The first volume includes almost 1450 abstracts from some 70-85 periodicals published in various countries. Abstracts for articles in English are given in French, all other abstracts are in English. In volume one, no. 1-2 covers 1950, no. 3 the first half of 1951, no. 4 the third quarter of 1951, with English and French cumulative subject indexes to the volume. There is no author index, though each issue is arranged alphabetically by author. Hereafter it is expected to publish the journal quarterly, with an annual cumulative index. Titles are given in the original language with, except for English and French titles, translations into English.

During the twenty-seven years of its existence, the League of Nations issued over 100,000 documents, which are surveyed by Hans Aufricht in his *Guide to League of Nations Publications . . . 1920-1947*. These include three types: those on public sale, those not on public sale, and those confidential in character. Many of the last were subsequently declassified and are listed here. Major documents of the principal autonomous organizations, such as the International Labor Organization, are also included, as well as guides and major publications relating to League activities. In general only English editions are noted.

## Business

*Measures of Business Change* by A. H. Cole was originally intended as a revision of Davenport and Scott's *An Index*

*to Business Indices* (L446) but the new work has been broadened in scope and although it is still limited to the United States, more emphasis has been placed on regional measures. There is a list of indexes in the order of their presentation, including Part I, National measure of change and Part II, Regional and local measures of change. Part I give descriptions of the indices which deal with volume of business, commodity prices, construction costs, employment, finance, etc. Part II deals with regional and local indices. Included are many series which show relative change but are not composed of index numbers.

## Dictionaries

Webster's *New World Dictionary of the American Language*, which in spite of the use of Webster's in the title has no connection with the Merriam-Webster publications, is said to be an entirely new dictionary prepared from the American viewpoint for the general reader rather than for the scholar of the English language. As compared with the 550,000 entries in Merriam-Webster's *New International Dictionary* (Unabridged), this dictionary has about 150,000 entries selected after analyzing various word frequency lists. Emphasis was put on terms to be found in contemporary American usage and in the required reading of college students. Pronunciations are those used by the majority of Americans in everyday speech, phonetically known as General American, with variant American pronunciations listed when they occur. All material, abbreviations, proper and geographical names, foreign words and phrases, slang, etc., are entered in the main alphabet. Etymologies are given. While it will not supplant the unabridged dictionaries it may provide a usable up-to-date desk dictionary.

The first fascicles have appeared of a new French dictionary done on historical prin-



ciples and sponsored by the Académie Française. Paul Robert's *Dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française; les mots et les associations d'idées* is in size, format, and plan very much like Murray's *New English Dictionary*. Etymology, definitions, synonyms, antonyms and cross-references to words with related meaning are given for each entry with quotations from French writers selected to clarify the usage and to trace the historical changes in meaning.

The republication in one volume of Preobrazhenskii's *Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language* makes this valuable work again available to students interested in the history of Russian language, literature and civilization and in Indo-European comparative linguistics. The two volumes (A-Suleya) which appeared before the author's death in 1918 have long been out of print and are extremely rare; volume three (Telo-ĪAshchur) was published in Russia for the first time in 1949. The remaining portion (parts of S and T), although apparently completed by the author, were subsequently lost. The reprint follows the original except for such alterations as were made necessary by modern orthography.

The first volume of a new comprehensive Dutch-English dictionary Jansonius *Groot Nederlands-Engels woordenboek* has been received, covering A-M.

#### *Motion Pictures*

The Copyright Office has produced an unusual and useful record of *Motion Pictures, 1912-1939*. The catalog consists of three parts: first, a title list of all motion pictures copyrighted from 1912 to 1939, giving the descriptive details of each picture, including date of production, number of reels, source of story, and if an adaptation of a play or novel, credits (producer, director, writer, etc.) and the name of the

company owning the copyright; second, an index of names; and third, a series list.

#### *Literature and Language*

E. Frauwallner's *Die Weltliteratur* is to be a new scholarly encyclopedia of world literature from the earliest times to 1951, giving concise information in a straight alphabetical arrangement, about national literatures, literary forms, and the most significant authors, with bibliographies. The first volume covers A-Grieg. It complements and supplements Eppelsheimer *Handbuch der Weltliteratur* (R32) which is arranged by period. Both give biographical sketches with bibliographies of works by, translations into German, and works about.

A practical manual for graduate students in English is provided in Sanders *An Introduction to Research in English Literary History*. After two brief introductory chapters, the first covering the making of paper and books, and the second listing basic reference books in the field, general problems of literary research are discussed, e.g., editing, biography, authenticity, sources, chronology, interpretation, techniques, the history of ideas and suggestions for thesis writing followed by a section of bibliographical references to which extensive footnotes in the work refer. It should serve as a useful introduction to both students and librarians.

The *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes* edited by Iona and Peter Opie is said to be the most comprehensive and authoritative work ever published in this field. It lists 550 English nursery rhymes arranged alphabetically by the most prominent word or in the case of nonsense jingles, by the opening phrases. The standard version is given first followed by the earliest recorded version, "the circumstance of its origin, changes of wording through the years, its forebears or companion pieces in other languages, and the customs, supersti-

tions and amusements associated with them," and bibliographical references. There are two indexes, one of "notable figures associated with the invention, diffusion or illustration of nursery rhymes" and one of the first lines of standard and other versions.

The second volume of Greg's *Bibliography of the English Printed Drama to the Restoration* is a welcome addition. Volume one (R298) recorded plays to 1616, volume two continues the record from 1617 to 1689, and has separate sections of "Latin plays," 1581-1658, and "Lost plays" 1504-1622. The form and arrangement follow that of volume one and copies are located in British and American libraries.

Another volume of the *Critical Bibliography of French Literature*, edited by David C. Cabeen has appeared. Volume one, *The Medieval Period* (R570) has proved most useful since its publication in 1947. It has now been joined by volume four, *The Eighteenth Century*, edited by George R. Havens and Donald F. Bond, which follows the pattern of the first volume, each chapter having been edited by a specialist. It lists more than three thousand books, dissertations and periodical articles in several languages. Critical annotations and references to reviews are included.

The publication of the first "Halbband" of volume eleven of Goedeke's *Grundriss zur Geschichte der deutschen Dichtung* (R505) has partially filled a gap in the second edition of this important work. This volume in three fascicles is devoted to the *Drama und Theater 1815-1830*, and covers general literature, the German states, Switzerland and the Russian Baltic provinces. The second "Halbband" will cover Austria and such smaller sections as "Kindertheater" and "Operntexte." It is hoped that this volume will appear in 1952.

Lambrino's *Bibliographie de l'antiquité classique 1896-1914* is a much needed work designed to fill the gap in the bibliographi-

cal record of classical studies between the works of Englemann (R796) and Klusman (R799) which together cover 1700-1896, and the *Dix années de bibliographie classique, 1914-1924* of Marouzeau (R800). Following the same plan as the latter, the first volume "Auteurs et textes," 1896-1914, lists editions, translations and works about classical writers in books and periodicals. The coverage is not limited to literature but includes all phases of Greco-Latin antiquity from pre-history to the Byzantine and Gallo-Roman periods. As in Marouzeau, the second volume will be concerned with *Matières et disciplines*.

A parallel work devoted exclusively to the Latin language has been prepared by Jean Cousin in his *Bibliographie de la langue latine, 1880-1948*. In a classified arrangement this deals with books and periodical articles on general linguistics in relation to the Latin language, history of the language, orthography and pronunciation, phonetics, morphology, syntax, stylistics, lexicography, and the language and style of individual authors. There is an index of words and an index of Latin authors but the lack of a general index is a decided handicap.

De Bray's *Guide to the Slavonic Languages* is an attempt to give an over-all view of all the Slavonic languages to those who are already familiar with one of the group. Each one is treated in a separate section introduced by a brief history of the language followed by an examination of the alphabet, pronunciation, morphology, word order, and features characteristic of the language. A selected bibliography lists grammars, dictionaries and other aids to study in the field, including works in English, French and German. There is a detailed table of contents but no index.

#### *Biography*

The first attempt at a biographical dictionary of leading UN personnel is based

on data gathered in the fall of 1950 and published by C. E. Burckel in 1951 as *Who's Who in the United Nations*. It lists nearly 1700 biographies of persons who hold important posts in the UN or its agencies, or who played a significant part in organizing the UN. Sketches are in usual who's who form and many are accompanied by photographs. Appendices include the Charter, member states, commissions, charts of organization, etc.

A new current biographical dictionary of Belgium entitled *Le livre bleu; recueil biographique*, gives brief sketches of persons important in Belgium in the fields of the arts and sciences, politics, industry and commerce.

R. L. Hill's *Biographical Dictionary of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan* is not restricted to persons who lived in the Sudan but contains some 1900 short sketches of persons of various nationalities and periods who died before 1948 and made some contribution to the history of the Sudan.

### *Geography and Travel*

One of the most important reference books of the decade, the *Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World* will immediately take its place as an essential item in libraries everywhere. Lippincott's *New Gazetteer*, to which this is a successor, has long been out-of-date and a comprehensive modern work had been much needed. Essentially a completely new work, the *Columbia Lippincott* lists in one alphabet the places of the world, both political subdivisions and geographic features, giving variant spellings, pronunciation, population (with date), geographic and political location, altitude, trade, industry, agriculture, natural resources, communications, history, cultural institutions and other pertinent facts. It lists some 130,000 names (with more than 30,000 cross-references), as against 40,000 in Webster's *Geographical Dictionary*

(U16). However, the Webster will still be useful, especially in smaller libraries, and in homes which cannot afford the larger work.

The Gennadius Library in Athens is a rich and unique collection of over 55,000 books, pictures and maps relating to Greece, the Balkans, and the Near East from medieval to modern times. The first part of the catalog of this library to be published, entitled *Voyages and Travels in the Near East Made During the XIX Century*, was compiled by S. H. Weber. It contains some 1,206 annotated titles entered by date of publication with a general index and a name index of travelers and authors.

### *History*

The war-time gap in the record of historical writings still to be covered by the *International Bibliography of Historical Sciences* (V11) is partially filled by Palumbo's *Bibliografia storica internazionale, 1940-1947*, which lists books and periodical articles with the emphasis on Italian writings although materials in other languages are included. There are author and subject indexes.

The historical writings of German authors for the period 1939-1945 are listed by Walther Holtzmann and Gerhard Ritter in *Die deutsche Geschichtswissenschaft im zweiten Weltkrieg*, which appeared in two parts, the first covering pre-history and ancient times, the second middle ages and modern times. This bibliography supplements for the war years both the *International Bibliography of Historical Sciences* (V11) and insofar as it concerns German history the *Jahresberichte für deutsche Geschichte* (V261).

An encyclopedic survey of this same war period 1939-1947 is provided by the special volume of *Larousse mensuel* entitled *La seconde guerre mondiale*. When publication was resumed with volume 12 in Janu-



ary 1948, volume eleven, which had been interrupted by the war, was still incomplete. This new volume completes volume eleven and includes the indexes to the entire volume. It contains the information for the war years in the usual alphabetical arrange-

ment with an introductory section covering the events of 1939-1947 in outline, and a tabulated chronology at the end. There are entries under the names of individuals, and longer articles on subjects as medicine, literature and on individual countries.

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## Local Subject Cataloging (Continued from page 233)

saving are not at hand, but it is not unreasonable to estimate the total saving at the same 65 per cent found to obtain were subject cataloging to be eliminated for for-

eign books and English books more than twenty years old. This would certainly be true when it is considered that classification is eliminated as well.