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# **The Library World**

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JOURNAL FOR LIBRARIANS*

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### **OUR COVER**

**Exeter University Library viewed  
from the south. It is one of four  
University Libraries which are  
spotlighted in this issue.**

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**The Annual subscription to THE LIBRARY WORLD  
is 42s. (post free)—\$5½—for 12 issues and an annual index.  
Special rates are allowed for students.**

The main features in this issue of THE LIBRARY WORLD are devoted to four University Libraries: Warwick, Keele, Exeter, and the J. B. Morrell Library, York.

## No. 1: WARWICK

by P. E. TUCKER

THE appointment of a Vice-Chancellor for the University of Warwick was announced towards the end of 1962. The Registrar was next appointed and then the librarian, who arrived on the scene in July 1963. The building which is described in this article was envisaged in a programme handed to the architects, Messrs. Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall, early in December 1963.

Work began on the building site in November 1964 on what was officially an 18-month contract; delays were slight, so that occupation was possible in the middle of July 1966. The university admitted its first intake, totalling about 430 undergraduate and graduate students, in October 1965 and for that one session the library, in common with the teaching departments, occupied part of a set of interim buildings.

The two-year period of preparation had made it possible for the university to admit a substantial body of students at the outset and to offer a comprehensive range of subjects which included English and French literature, history, philosophy, economics, politics, mathematics, engineering science and molecular sciences. Physics was added to this list a year later.

University thinking and policy about its buildings followed a similar pattern of planning on a large scale. The main site, over 400 acres of land to the south of Coventry, is the largest single site scheduled for university development in this country. It was decided first that the future development of this area should be unprejudiced by the erection of temporary or interim buildings, which were accordingly placed on a small adjacent site, and

secondly that the building should be done in large units.

The important consequence for the library was that the whole library block was constructed as one, the building being shared for the first few years with teaching departments in the humanities. The alternative choice, building by stages, has so far been more usual in new university library development. The library has been built in what will be the centre of the academic area of the university, facing two large science blocks and linked with them by a pedestrian bridge at first-floor level. The first social and residential blocks are a few hundred yards away.

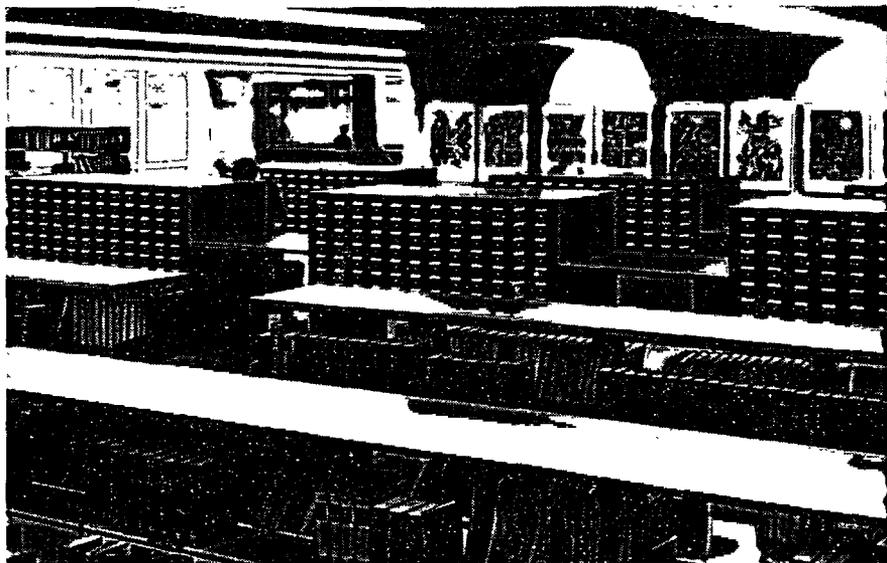
The decision to undertake the main library as one project simplified matters enormously for the librarian and must also have been a relief to the architects, since a series of problems arises not only in the functional planning but also in the external

appearance of a building which is planned to change its size and shape several times. It will be realised that the present Warwick Library was not planned with 20,000 students as a determinant of size, even though the site is large enough for development on that scale.

It was decided, and no doubt the decision will appear increasingly arbitrary as time goes on, to think in terms of 10-year development in the first instance and to plan therefore in terms of a student population of 5,000. On U.G.C. ratios this meant 1,250 places for readers. The capacity of the building was fixed at approximately half a million volumes.

At this point it seems desirable to present some data about the building in terms of the librarian's programme for the architects. The two figures just mentioned were of course the two most important points in the programme and virtually the only ones which were determined by university policy rather than by the desires and aims of the librarian and of the architects, who worked in a direct relationship.

General Reference and Catalogue Area, with control counter in the background. Pictures form part of a set of the lithograph sequence 'As Is When' by Eduardo Paolozzi.



The programme stated that a university library never ceases growing and that an unalterable building should not be contemplated. The building envisaged should be capable not only of expansion in a rudimentary sense but also of easily admitting changes of function in the different parts; in other words it should be a flexible building with few fixed features internally.

Floors were to be load-bearing in all parts. Virtually the whole of the bookstock was to be available on open access—it is doubtful whether a closed access building would be sensible or acceptable in a new university. Access to books was required at all points, so to speak, on the general principle that books and readers should be dispersed and to some degree intermingled, not separated and concentrated. Vast reading rooms, whether with or without books, were particularly to be avoided.

In general terms it was required that the library should function not merely as the physical centre of the university but also as an intellectual centre and focus for many kinds of activity, including exhibitions of pictures, displays of books and drawings, seminars, small meetings and social activities. Stress was laid upon making the building inviting and easy to use.

## Special demands

The more trivial technical points of the programme, which included such matters as level floors throughout the building and adequate provision of lifts and staircases, and so on need not be detailed. Certain special demands must be mentioned because they were clearly instrumental from the architects' point of view in dictating the ultimate shape of the structure.

There were two proposals of a social kind. One was for a coffee bar, the other for a bookshop inside the library building; of these two the bookshop was dropped, but the

coffee bar remained and is a valuable adjunct to the building.

Certain demands on the technical side clearly involved large areas. The first of these was a photographic department of 1,530 square feet, which is now in use. The second was a library bindery which extended to 2,420 square feet; this is unlikely to be working before 1969. From the point of view of planning and the disposition of parts in the building, the requirement for a closed access stack with Compactus shelving might also be mentioned under this heading.

## Space allocation

The programme included a section on the relationship and disposal of the various parts of the building under three heads. First, public areas, which included special services for readers (microtext reading equipment, typewriters, listening facilities) as well as reading and working areas; secondly, technical and staff areas not open to the public; thirdly, public areas outside the library control. The last category included the provision of a reading room to be open when the library proper was closed as well as the coffee bar and exhibition areas. The programme concluded with a schedule of rooms and areas; this list was in due course made the basis of providing for the architects figures in square feet and other details of use for every part.

The response of the architects to these requirements can be traced in detail on the plans. The preliminary discussions and procedures centred around three matters. The first was the systematic working out of relationships between the different parts of the building as envisaged in the programme. This entailed the drawing up of diagrams showing how the flow of material through a library takes place and the points at which the users are involved as well as the staff. It emerged very clearly at this stage that one floor of the library would be a service floor, or main

floor, from the point of view of users and of staff.

The second point emerged in discussions about circulation and it is the point which probably gives the most trouble in library design, given an open site. This is of course the problem of control of entry and exit and the general security of the library. It is difficult for any solution to this problem to be more than partially successful; even if one is successful in persuading the architects to avoid anything suggestive of the monumental at the entrance it is still difficult to design an entrance which suggests informality and easy dropping in to the library when a physical barrier is erected.

The third point worthy of mention here is the shape of the building. Very little experience in visiting or using university libraries is required to see that the shape has frequently been much influenced by a decision on the nature of the entrance to what is after all a large public building. At Warwick the architects' treatment of the entrance areas was determined in functional terms by the demand in the programme for certain areas associated with the entrance to be outside the library control. This control was to consist in a pedal-operated wicket, incorporated in the service counter in order to minimize the staff requirements, particularly at off-peak hours.

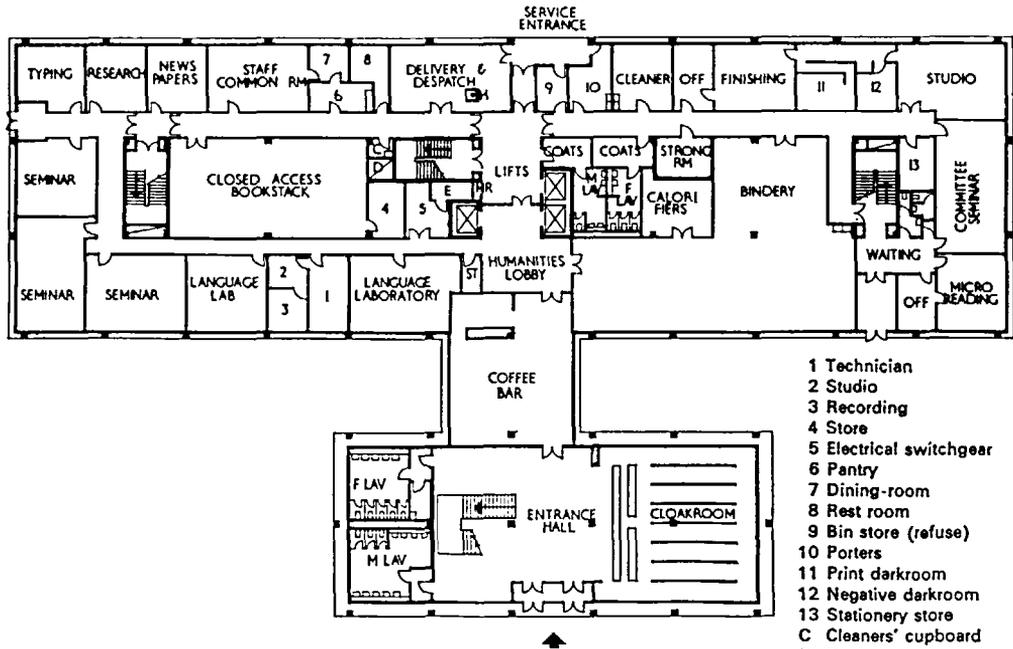
## Coffee bar

It will be seen from the plans that a separate entrance block sits out in front of the main block. This block is only two storeys high, containing cloakroom space on the ground floor and two rooms on the floor above, one twice the size of the other, which can be used as occasion demands as an exhibition room and as an external reading room. The link with the main block is also on two levels. At ground floor level the link contains a small coffee bar. On the first floor it carries an island control counter, receiving traffic from across the bridge as well as from up the outer staircase.

Under the present arrangement for sharing the building, users whose business is on the top two floors go through the coffee bar and either take one of the two lifts which do not stop at the library floors, or follow a passage which leads round to the east staircase, which is sealed off on all library floors. An evident drawback to this circulation system in the future, when the library has occupied the whole of the building, is that

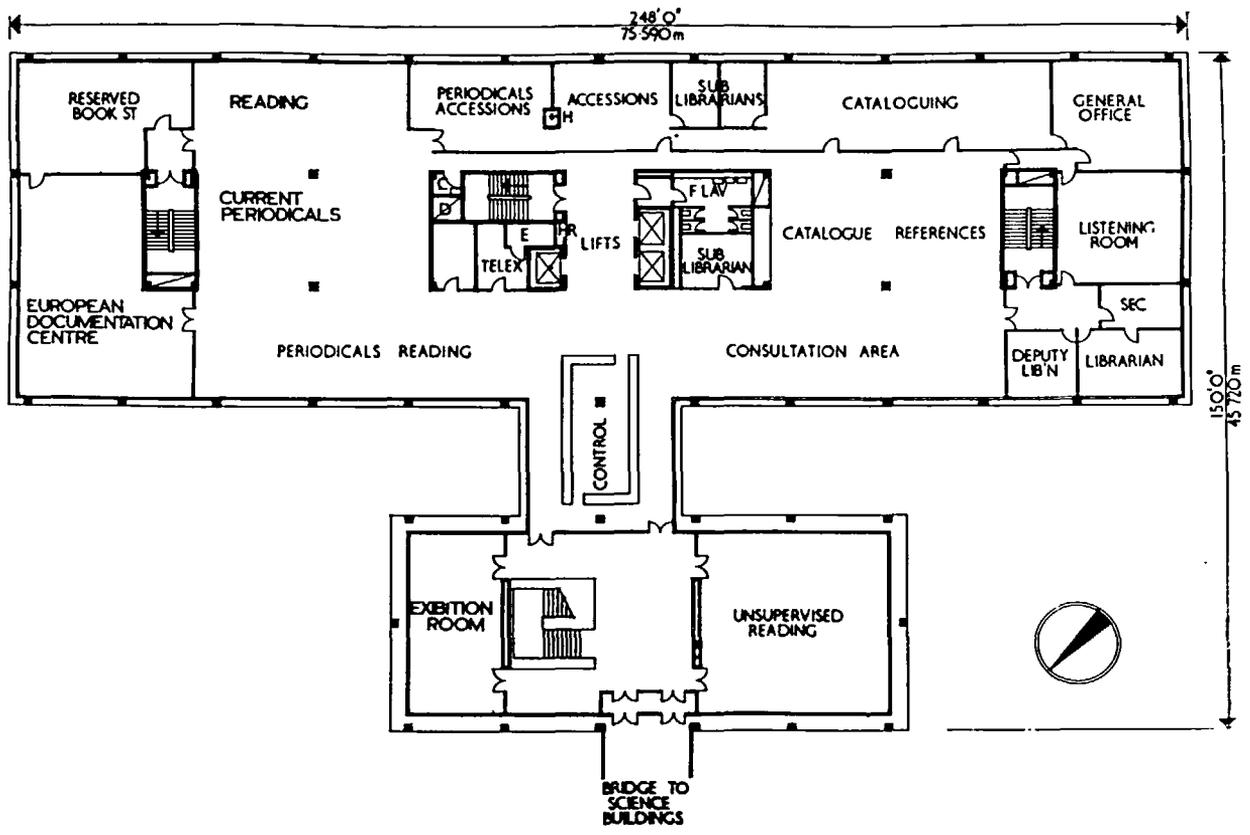
Social Sciences Division (second floor), with special Collections Room beyond partition.





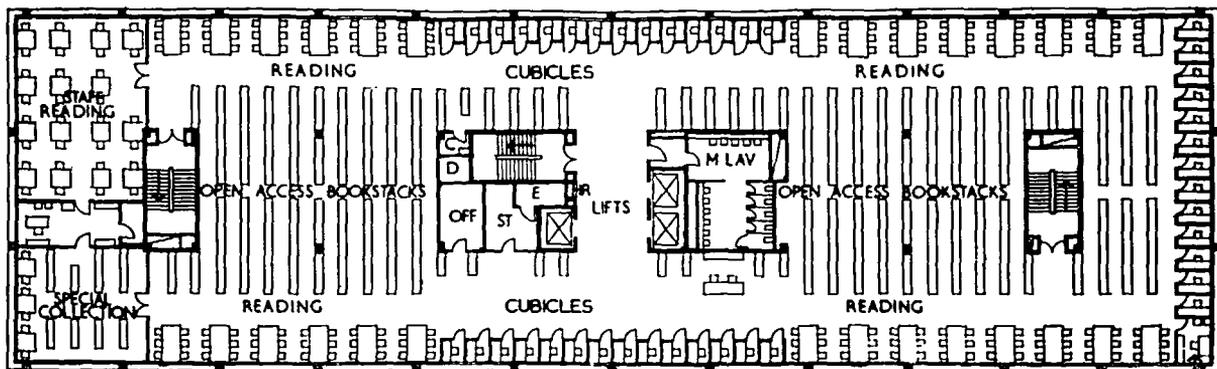
- 1 Technician
- 2 Studio
- 3 Recording
- 4 Store
- 5 Electrical switchgear
- 6 Pantry
- 7 Dining-room
- 8 Rest room
- 9 Bin store (refuse)
- 10 Porters
- 11 Print darkroom
- 12 Negative darkroom
- 13 Stationery store
- C Cleaners' cupboard
- D Duct
- E Electrical intake room
- H Book hoist
- HR Hose reels

Ground floor plan (1/4" = 1ft)



First floor at level of pedestrian bridge. Metric equivalents are indicated with dimensions

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### Second floor plan

users will not be able to take the lift from the ground floor, since by doing so they would evade the control point on the first floor.

In discussing the rationale of the building I have moved insensibly into a discussion of the parts. I will pursue this by considering the main block. An examination of the ground floor plan will show that there is an overflow on to this floor of rooms which readers use, which is a drawback. It should be mentioned, however, that the language laboratory and one or two of the seminar rooms are part of the interim arrangement for sharing the building.

The original plan provides for more closed access bookstack in place of the language laboratory; with space in this stack at present for some 25,000 volumes it was clear that further provision of this kind was unlikely to be necessary for a few years. The provision of seminar rooms for library purposes was probably over-generous from the beginning. Even if there is a certain amount of class-work which can best be done within the library, it is still true that the pressure of demand for space in an expanding university will ensure that such rooms have to be utilised to the maximum. Once they are in use for the greater part of the day as normal seminar or lecture rooms it is obviously desirable to have them accessible from outside the library control.

The library security barrier at the bottom of the east staircase may well be moved in the future so that two, three or four more rooms are within the library control and accessible to readers only from the staircase. The fire exit door on the east end of the ground floor, like that on the north side of the west end, is normally kept locked.

I have suggested already that there

was some pressure for space on the main floor. It was clear that very generous provision was required for catalogues and reference works as well as for current periodicals in a building of this size. Almost the whole of the office accommodation was wanted on this floor.

The listening room was a strong claimant for space here because it demands close supervision. It has been equipped with 14 booths, each having facilities for playing records or tapes and for radio reception. Listening is normally over ear-phones, but there is a facility for extension from one booth to the committee/seminar room immediately below which can thus be brought into use as a small auditorium. This room is already in use for occasional film sessions, projection being from the photographic studio.

### Documentation Centre

The first floor also contains the European Documentation Centre, which was not envisaged when the first plans were drawn up. The Documentation Centre includes French and German parliamentary publications as well as British government publications and needs to be in close association with current periodicals and newspapers and with the periodicals accessions office.

On the first floor the rather long and narrow shape of the main block might be thought a disadvantage, particularly when it is only in the current periodicals area that daylight comes in from both sides. However, the style of the library is seen more typically on the floors above, and it is this style which will be extended, even if with modification, to the fourth and fifth floors.

These floors are long and narrow

for several reasons. It is a matter of simple arithmetic to demonstrate that more linear space is available around the periphery of a long and relatively narrow space than around the periphery of a square or nearly square space. The programme had said that internal reading places should not be considered and stressed what has been called the psychological value of fenestration.

From the architects' point of view it was desirable to get light into the middle of the building, and there is a genuine gain in spaciousness to the user in the middle of the building who can see through windows on both sides.

The plan of the second floor is repeated on the third floor with the omission of the staff reading room and special collections room (which is air-conditioned); the third floor at this end of the building provides more six-person tables and also two small areas, one in each corner, furnished with upright armchairs. The plan is drawn to scale in detail but it will be helpful if I say that the tables for readers are on ten-foot centres and the bookstacks on five-foot centres.

The fully enclosed carrels at the west end are five feet wide so that the occupant has full control of a single horizontally pivoted window unit and of a single radiator unit on his left with a seven-foot working surface in front of him; the doors are rough-cast glass. The carrels or cubicles in the centre of the building are simply wooden enclosures five feet high and the space inside is generous, being five feet square.

Although these reading boxes exist partly because the U.G.C. would not allow any more fully enclosed carrels and partly because it was necessary to screen readers in these areas from the traffic, they have become popular

with undergraduate students simply because they are enclosed. All the open tables on these floors are nine feet long and four feet wide, thus providing each user with a working space of three feet by two feet and each table had a division one foot four inches in height down the centre. Reading tables on the first floor are of the same size in the periodicals and consultation areas, but smaller, that is for four or for two readers in the remaining public areas.

## Close to books

The dispersal of readers around the periphery of the stacks makes it possible for readers to work close to the books in their field of interest. Each of the two upper floors breaks naturally into two divisions. The present arrangement of the bookstack divides the upper floor between literature with fine art on the one side and historical subjects with generalia on the other side, and the second floor between pure science and technology on the one side and the social sciences on the other.

Bound volumes of periodicals, which amount at present to about one-quarter of the library's total stock (80,000 volumes), are not classified. Instead there is a two-fold division into arts and sciences, each in a straightforward sequence by title, on the second floor. Each stack division has an aisle across the middle; the sequence of volumes always observes this break and the present arrangement places the science periodicals adjacent to the science bookstack and the arts periodicals adjacent to the social sciences bookstack.

## Subject specialist

Each of the four main divisions, like the European Documentation Centre, is manned by a subject specialist who plays a part in the selection and disposal in the library of material in his subject and who is responsible under a chief cataloguer for the major part of the classifying and of the cataloguing in his subject. Most of this work is done on the open floor where help to readers can also be given and there are thus four service positions in front (i.e. on the north side) of the main cores, each position carrying the reference books peculiar to the subjects shelved in the area and a section of the classified catalogue, together with a subject index.

The only author catalogue is on the main floor. The list of holdings in periodicals is periodically printed off from a stripdex master, which is also maintained on the first floor.

It will be evident from what I have already said that the building is in the librarian's sense a modular one, the basic unit being five feet with columns spaced at 20 and 25 foot intervals. The distribution of staircases and the size of the central cores has had the effect of reducing internal columns to an absolute minimum.

Quite apart from the working advantages of having small rooms available in the middle of the building, this construction, in conjunction with the generous spacing of the bookstacks, produces a remarkably spacious effect on every floor. The building is 248 feet long, and on the third floor it is possible to stand outside one of the carrels and see from one end of the floor to the other.

The danger of producing a building too much resembling an enormous warehouse has nevertheless been avoided; the placing of service points (which are not uniform in lay-out) on the upper floors as well as the break in the line of reading tables effected by the cubicles is probably responsible for this achievement. Perhaps more significant in the visitor's first impression is the fact that the building is carpeted throughout, with the exception of the ground

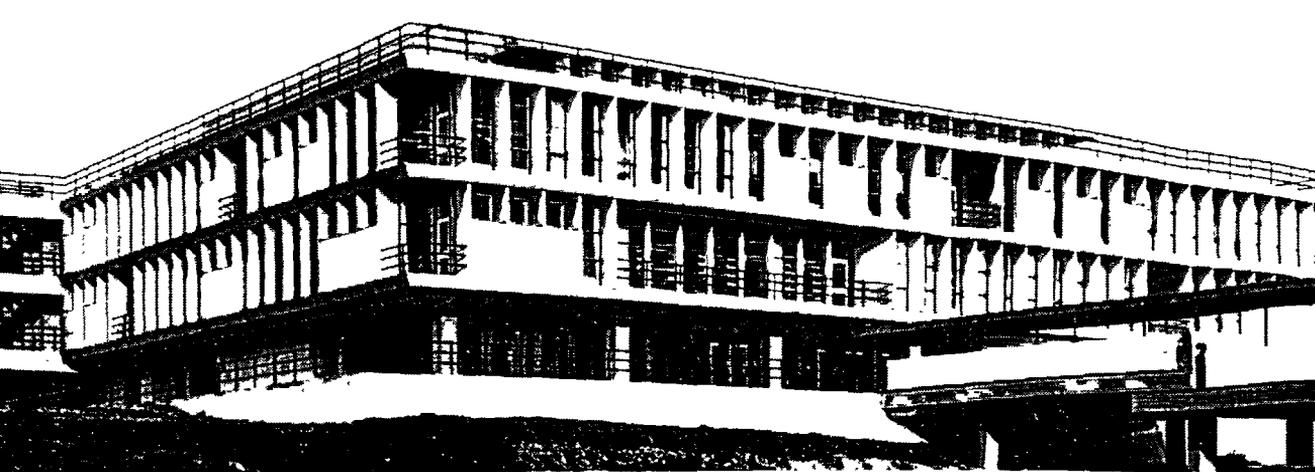
floor, the immediate entrance area and the stairways. The effect of carpeting, as librarians have now discovered in this country, is not only to deaden normal noises but also to react upon the user in such a way that he tends to move about and talk more quietly. The carpet adds luxuriance to the impression of spaciousness and helps to determine the aesthetic reaction.

A further feature of the building is the prevailing neutrality of the background, in which may be included the shelving as well as the carpet and the finish of the core blocks and the partitions. Against these neutral tones are set the black and occasional vivid blue of the chairs, the colours of the books on the shelves and of clothing worn by readers, and most of all the contemporary paintings and lithographs, mostly in strong bright colours, which the architects planned from the beginning to place in the building.

Photographs will not do justice to the visual effects achieved largely by colour and contrast, but it may prove useful to some readers if I say that a further selection of photographs of the interior and of the exterior will be found in an article written about the building by an architect for the *Architects' Journal*, 23rd November 1966 (pages 1271-1284). This article also gives further technical information, including the quantity surveyors' figures.

Current Periodicals Area and doorway into European Documentation Centre (first floor).





## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

# No. 2: J. B. Morrell Library, York

by HARRY FAIRHURST

**T**HE new University of York produced its first batch of graduates in July 1966. Throughout the three years of their course they had tolerated library provision in cramped and temporary quarters, as indeed had the library staff. Now, in its fourth year, York has the first stage of its library building completed, occupied during the last long vacation at an informal domestic ceremony on 3rd October.

Planning began in the middle of 1962 with informal discussions between the librarian and senior members of the university's architects (Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners) followed by the preparation of a detailed brief for the building. At the same time the architects were completing their over-all development plan for the university's first 10 years which included the necessary buildings for a university of 3,000 undergraduates on the Heslington site of 190 acres just to the south-east of the York city boundary.

The site of the library was fixed, acceptably, as part of the development plan, slightly off centre and on rising ground to the east of the campus, adjacent to the main spine road running through the campus and facing the central car parking and bus terminus area. Approximately two acres were reserved for library development and access road; the plan envisaged a final building to be erected in at least three stages;

the first stage, now completed, has a useable floor area of 65,000 square feet and is big enough to house 250,000 volumes and to seat 700 readers.

The brief to the architects called for an open-plan, open-access library, flexible internally, and capable of expansion. The building had at the same time to provide adequate accommodation for the library technical services and, although it is only Stage One, to be a complete unit in itself. Detailed information on the relationships between the various areas and types of accommodation was included in the brief.

The resultant building is square (150 by 150 ft.), on four floors, of "in situ" reinforced concrete, and fully modular. The ground conditions (the high ground is in fact a glacial moraine) necessitated bored pile foundations to a depth of about 45 feet; the column grid is at 22 ft. 6 ins. spacing and the flat slab floor construction is designed to carry a loading of 150 lbs. per square foot. The main contractors, F. Shepherd & Son Ltd., came on site in May 1965 and the completed building was handed over, with shelving erected, in September 1966. Building costs were £421,553.

The layout of the ground floor was largely dictated by the fact that all buildings in the university are linked by a covered way system which also passes through them. This continuation of the "street system" bisecting

the library ground floor produced problems of security which could only be solved by thinking in terms of a series of self-contained blocks. One houses the book bindery (not yet operational), and the photographic laboratory together with a small closed access stack, and an unloading bay with goods lift access from the first floor. Details of individual floor areas are given in the table.

The bindery has a large work area with fitted benching and floor power points and with a smaller adjacent finisher's room and a store room. It is designed to be operated initially by a staff of six and can be extended by taking over the closed access stack room which runs parallel to it.

The photographic complex is large and self-contained, consisting of a main studio, store, negative dark room, print processing room and print finishing room, and equipment already installed includes a Kodak MRD 2E microfilm camera, Sinar technical camera and Durst 135-S enlarger. There is a smaller room for offset-litho work opening off the photographic area.

The second block accommodates a general cloakroom with service counter, library staff locker rooms and lounge, staff entrance and staff stairs, and the bookshop and shop office. The shop is let to the York firm of Thomas C. Godfrey and, because of the covered way system, occupies a corner site with two display windows. When the library is extended the present bookshop will provide expansion space for the



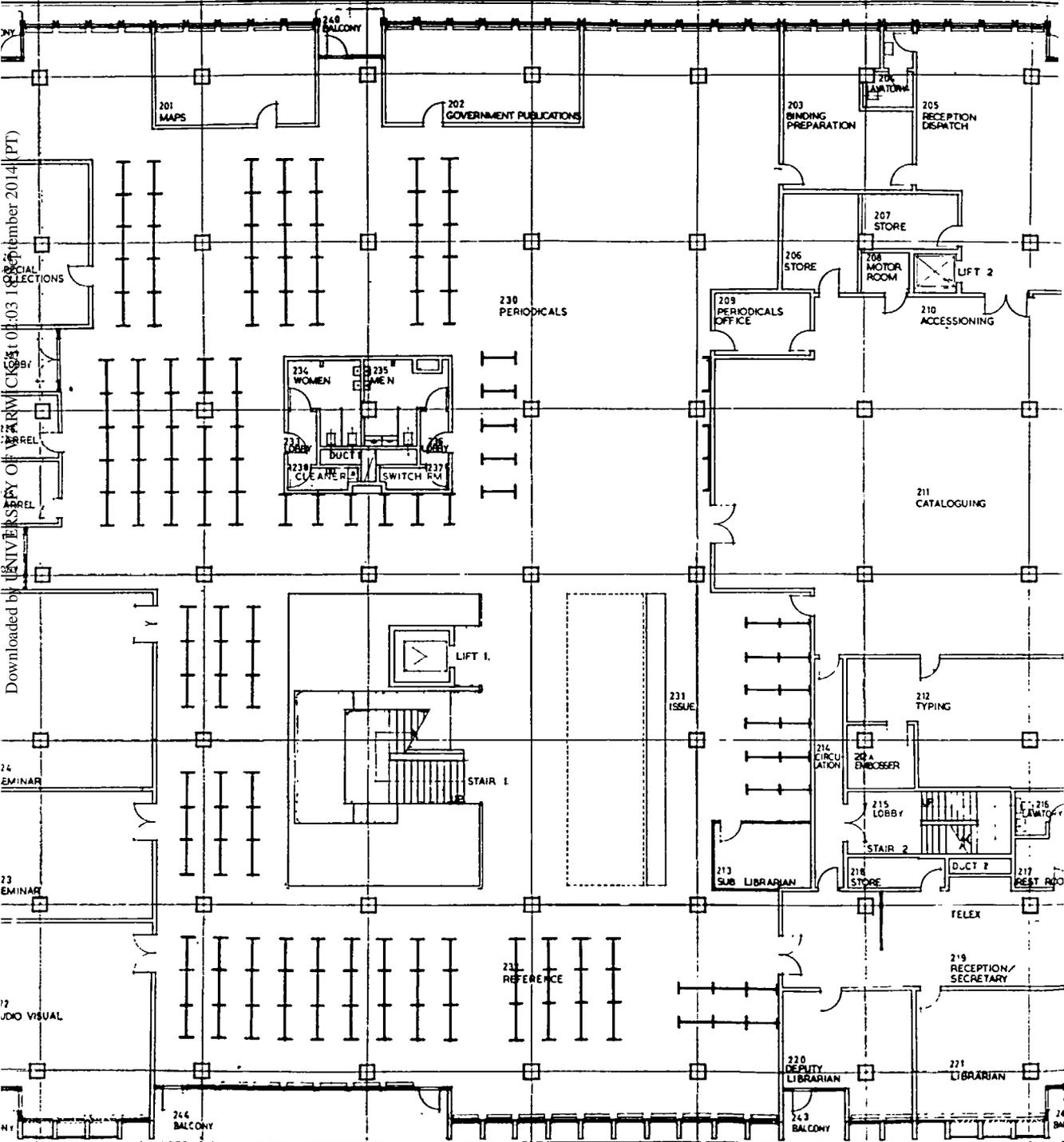
the head of the stairs, on the first floor, he is faced by the reader services desk with a second light-well immediately above it. The entire library processing and administrative area is located behind, and in support of, the reader services desk. This area is designed to a simple work-flow pattern.

The goods lift from the unloading bay on the ground floor delivers to

the order and accessions department which in turn leads into the large cataloguing office and the periodicals receipt office joins the cataloguing room to the current periodicals area. A general typing room opens off the cataloguing room and accommodates the two Ultronic tape typewriters which are in use as well as the embosser for the Bookamatic issue system and the Se-Lin labeller.

The order / accessions / cataloguing / typing group is linked by a short corridor, also giving access to the staff stairs, to the administrative area with offices for the library secretary, the librarian and deputy librarian. The Xerox 914 is also located here because of the ease of access from the reader services desk and there is provision for the future installation of telex.

## J. B. MORRELL LIBRARY: FIRST FLOOR PLAN



The whole of this area is reached through double doors to right and left of the reader services desk which also has a direct access into the cataloguing room where pamphlets and offprints are kept in Sankey Eyemaster units. To one side of the reader services desk, in the public area, the card catalogues (author and classified, with subject index) are flanked by shelves housing the major bibliographies. Beyond, the catalogues the current periodicals area provides pigeon-hole space for almost 3,000 titles with a double-sided range of display shelving. The current periodicals area in turn is accessible from the binding preparation room which is adjacent to the order department and with access to the goods lift.

## Seminar rooms

On the north side of this first floor are three seminar rooms, one at present furnished as an academic staff reading room and one equipped with projection and recording apparatus. Two carrels and three special collection rooms complete the enclosed accommodation on this floor except for the central service core with male and female lavatories, cleaners' closet and switch room. These facilities are repeated on the two floors above.

The remainder of the first floor is free for an appropriate shelving layout with reader accommodation both around the perimeter and, to a lesser degree, in areas within the main shelved sections. This is fundamental to the open plan principle of the building. There is no formal division into reading room and bookstack but as much of the main floors as possible is available for an arrangement of shelving and of tables and chairs which can be adjusted or altered as necessary. The aim is both to produce a flexible layout and to bring readers as closely as possible into contact with the books they want to use.

This principle is best illustrated on the second floor, reached either by the lift or by the main staircase, where almost the entire floor is devoted to an open plan layout. There are three exceptions apart from the circulation well and the service core. The light-well above the reader services desk opens out to produce a natural top lit reading area to seat 60.

Around the perimeter are a series of carrels, 23 in all with a total

capacity of 40 readers; they are located around the perimeter in order to provide some carrel accommodation near to all the main subject blocks of shelving; all are completely enclosed; all are suitable for the use of typewriters, tape recorders or micro-readers; there are some single and some double carrels with a few large enough to accommodate three readers to cater for the increasing amount of group or related research work. The third exception is the micro-reader room with built-in cubicles, white formica topped, for six readers, and storage space for microforms.

Next to this is the closed-circuit television transmission room to be linked ultimately with each of the three laboratory blocks on the campus by co-axial cable. The transmission equipment consists of a Pye document transmission console with two cameras each with 1 in. and 1½ in. lenses and with a common 8½ in. monitor. The library offers an "on demand" service to the laboratories for rapid reference to periodical articles or reference works which are read on a 17-inch monitor in the laboratories. Focussing, lens change, scanning and page turning are carried out from the console (linked by telephone to the receiver). There is no remote control facility.

## Seating for 20

Even with these three exceptions the bulk of the third floor retains the open plan characteristics and the reader accommodation covers a wide variety—from the massed tables under the light well to the solitary table in the shelved areas. The corner conditions, with good natural lighting and seating for up to 20, are particularly popular.

The fourth floor is smaller than the other three, and although there is some shelving, there is a higher proportion of reader places at tables round the perimeter and in easy chairs along the west face. The atmosphere of the top floor is generally less formal; smoking is allowed and there is access to the library's flat terrace roof which provides a dominating view over the university campus. Half of the top floor—and much of the entire building because of the two light wells—is top lit by an area of fibre-glass rooflights above a framework of plastered concrete beams.

Two planning grids have been used in the design of the building. The basic modular column grid on

22 ft. 6 in. centres has already been mentioned with the perimeter of the first and second floors cantilevered out from the line of the outside columns. An additional 4 ft. 6 in. grid was superimposed for detailed planning (4 ft. 6 in. being taken as the standard width between ranges of shelving) and has produced interesting results from the point of view of lighting and shelving.

In the main library areas on the first and second floors a suspended ceiling is used reducing the slab to slab height of 10 ft. to a clear floor to ceiling height of 8 ft. 10 in. tapering upwards to the line of the slab round the perimeter of the building and at the edge of the light wells. All main services are carried within the suspended ceiling cavity.

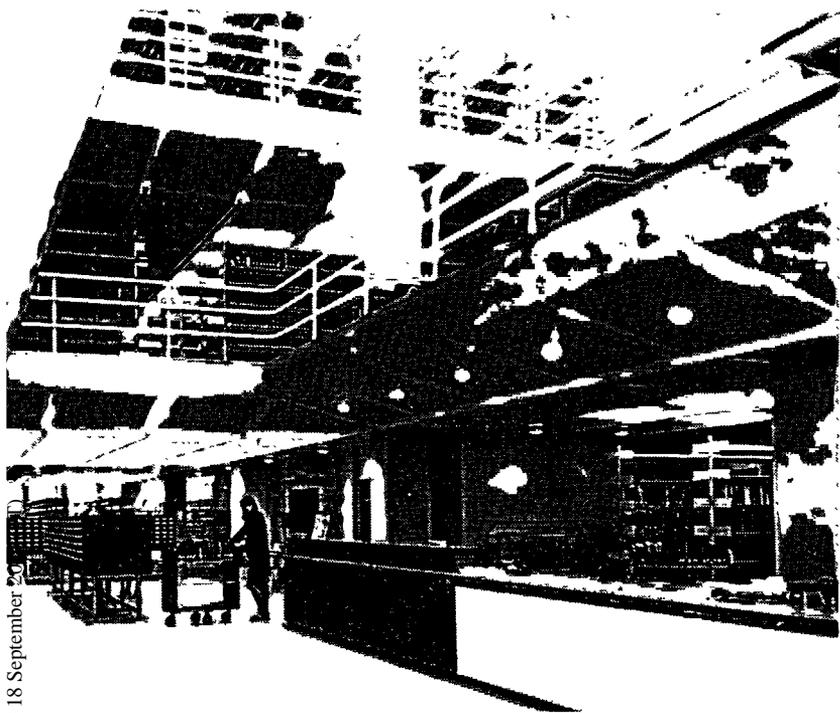
## Lattice grid ceiling

The ceiling itself is in the form of a lattice grid of 4 ft. 6 in. square panels which can be either blank, equipped with a tungsten light fitting, or equipped with a recessed fluorescent fitting behind an opaque diffuser. Each group of panels connects to a 13-amp socket on the slab above, the result being that the lighting pattern can be altered to conform to the use made of the floor area below. Reflector lights are used above the reader services desk and around the perimeter of the first, second and third floors.

There is no suspended ceiling on the third floor and lightspan track lighting is used to illuminate the bookshelf with fixture fittings on the reading tables at this level. In the remaining areas of the building, office and technical, the lighting is generally fluorescent at ceiling level.

Floor finishes in the main library area are a light coloured felt-backed Rickett vinyl carpet, with vinyl tiles in office and technical areas. On the ground floor the covered way system is paved in concrete using an aggregate similar to that used on the external parts of the building, the ground floor area at the foot of the lift and stair well is covered in Tretford carpet (this area can be used to mount small exhibitions) and the stairs and risers are in black Pirelli rubber.

Finishes in general throughout the library are light, white or off-white. On the ground floor all external walls and the walls to the covered way are white-tiled, as is the lift shaft and the central supporting wall of the staircase. Externally the cladding to the slab edges, the window fins and the



*The Readers' Services desk and catalogues with, beyond, current periodicals area. Through the light-well can be seen part of the second and third floors with details of shelving and lighting systems.*

upstand above the fourth floor is a near-white exposed aggregate concrete and the monotony of repeated window units is relieved occasionally by white vitreous enamel infill panels. Internally wall finishes are off-white and in the office and technical areas the ceiling finish is sprayed limpet asbestos which has acoustic as well as fire-proofing properties.

The furnishing is in keeping with the light and open appearance of the building. The question of shelving was raised early in the planning discussions since the visual quality of the shelving is critical to the internal appearance of an open-plan library. The architects asked why it was not possible to conform to the 4 ft. 6 in. grid in all directions by using a system with 4 ft. 6 in. long shelves. Apart from the fact that no such system existed the principle objections, apart from one's natural conservatism, appeared to be a general feeling that shelves longer than 3 ft. would tend to sag in the middle unless heavily reinforced and would prove too long to scan, particularly at lower levels.

Since neither of these objections seemed sufficiently conclusive the architects were allowed to design a new system in conjunction with Messrs. Keeles of Hadleigh, near

Ipswich. Keeles had had considerable experience in the design and construction of free-standing metal gymnasium equipment and thoroughly understood the problems of loading, rigidity and stability. The design was prototyped, modified and finally approved after rigorous testing.

The shelving is bracket type with white stove-enamelled shelves adjustable at 3 in. centres on 2 in. diameter cadmium plated tubular supports. The supports are joined by top and bottom lateral rails locking into them. There is no cross-bracing or nuts and bolts. A variation of the system has also been produced for the periodical display racks and pigeon holes mentioned earlier.

The readers' tables which seat two, four or six, have teak tops on satin chrome bases and chairs are black cirrus upholstered with satin chrome legs. Most windows in the general library and office areas are curtained in lightweight light coloured materials; carrel curtains are dark grey.

The building is heated by a ducted warm air system via diffusers in the suspended ceiling with some local control by room thermostats. The first, second and third floors have

perimeter convector heaters to eliminate condensation and to provide a warm air curtain around the edge of the building. Air is extracted via the light and stair wells through ducts incorporated in the roof-light structure and the fan rooms form a small fifth floor to the building hidden by the upstand around the roof level of the fourth floor.

The university has now had almost six months' experience in the use and operation of its new library building and reaction so far has been generally favourable, both from visitors and from members of the university itself. Although far from traditional in concept and design its function is unmistakable—to bring readers and books together as quickly and as easily as possible in surroundings conducive to work.

## Lightness, space

Internally it has a feeling of lightness and space enhanced by the two wells, the lighting system is particularly effective and the shelving is proving a very worthwhile experiment, stable and good-looking. An open-plan library does, of course, present particular problems from the point of view of readers finding the material they seek. At the moment the first floor houses the reference collection and scientific books, and the second floor the humanities, less education, fine art and music, which are shelved on the third floor. A colour code has been used on the range indicators to identify subjects and floor plans are displayed on each floor as well as in the readers' handbook.

From the librarian's point of view the building functions well and it appears likely that maintenance will be relatively easy. Time will no doubt bring its problems but the biggest question mark, the possibility of excessive noise because of the open wells, has not yet materialised even with the already heavy afternoon use (York has no formal teaching in the afternoons).

At least the library has a permanent home which is the product of detailed collaboration between librarian and architect. Some aspects are a compromise between the ideas of the two, usually enhancing the building without detracting from it functionally. It is internally flexible and capable of easy expansion and re-arrangement—the second stage to take the book capacity up to 750,000 will be a direct projection northwards.

Above all it illustrates the fact that, despite all the problems of starting a new library from scratch, the librarian of the new university is at a tremendous advantage in being able to plan on a clear site. If he can do it with architect, builder and university administration as helpful and co-operative as at York he is doubly fortunate.

TABLE OF ACCOMMODATION		Area
Departments		(sq. ft)
Book/reader area	1	11,023
"	2	18,250
"	3	5,407
Carrels		1,580
Microreader room		324
Special collections		1,072
Seminar rooms		1,620
Bindery		1,701
Photographic department		1,985

Bookshop	1,235
Snack bar	2,410
Staff offices	7,230
Rest room	709
Locker rooms and lavatories	1,820
Cleaners	265
Services (heating, lighting, ventilation)	1,983
Entrance and cloaks	1,498
Exhibition area	810
Corridors and covered way route	2,025
Compact book store	306

## No. 3: EXETER

by L. J. LLOYD

THE first library building to appear on the Streatham Estate of the University of Exeter was the Roborough Library—now the Roborough Reading Room and Reference Library—the foundation-stone of which was laid by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester on 20th October, 1937. The building was opened by Earl Baldwin on 8th May, 1940. The architect was Mr. E. Vincent Harris, R.A., and the library was designed to serve the needs of some 120 readers and to accommodate about 150,000 books.

This was adequate provision at the time, since the total population of the University College of the South West, as the university was then known, was not much more than 500 students and members of the Academic Staff. After the war, however, the college began to grow rapidly, and it soon became clear that it would not be long before the library would have to be expanded to keep pace with this accelerating increase in numbers. Moreover, the prospect of a University Charter was becoming plainly visible on the horizon.

University status was in fact granted to the college in 1955, and in 1959 it was decided that a new and much larger library should be built to the design of William Holford & Partners. Discussions began in the following year, and the project was put in hand in 1964. During the first week of January 1966, the contents of the Roborough Library were transferred to the new building, and it was formally opened by Sir Frank Francis, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, on May 10th of the same year.

The new building, built on a hilly site and largely of brick which harmonises admirably with that of

the Roborough building some 25 yards to the west and with the adjacent Mary Harris Memorial Chapel, is on four levels, the uppermost of which contains two reading rooms, the exhibition hall, staff common room, rest room, the order and cataloguing departments, administrative offices and staff cloakrooms. Below, on the ground floor, are the control desk, catalogue hall, porter's lodge, bibliography room, the main reading room, the periodicals room, the geography reading room, the academic staff reading room, and cloakrooms.

Below again, on the upper stack floor are book stacks to accommodate approximately 140,000 books, reading areas at either end of the stacks, the microfilm reading room, photographic department, the loading bay and book processing department, staff cloakrooms and boiler house. Below this floor is the Lower

### *Counter Desk and Catalogue Hall.*



Stack floor with shelving to accommodate another 160,000 volumes.

In the centre of the building, with an approach at ground floor level is an open courtyard, facing south, backed by a short tower which contains the water tank and lift shaft, and furnished with seats and receptacles for flowers and shrubs. Access to the building for readers, is obtained from entrances at the east and west ends and for staff and goods through the entrance in the north wall.

Within the building access to the reading rooms and other departments of the library is obtained either from stairs in the centre of the building, or a continuous ramp on the west which has rubber flooring to facilitate the easy passage of book trolleys. A lift is provided for staff use and the conveyance of books.

The decorative scheme of the library has been carried out in tones of grey and white with touches of blue in ceilings and light fittings, and this basic scheme has been given richness and warmth by the use throughout the library of reading units, bookcases, shelving and other furniture in African mahogany.

In the early stages of discussion on



*Exeter University Library's Exhibition Hall*

the inner arrangement of the library it was decided that as much privacy should be provided as was consistent with a building capable of accommodating some 400 readers, and consequently the five reading rooms are, with one exception, relatively small, and all are furnished with tables of generous proportions, provided with shelves and individual strip lighting which can be operated by the reader. These tables are constructed in such a way that readers cannot see those sitting in front of them, and are normally placed in parallel lines in groups of four.

Floor coverings throughout the building are either of linoleum tiles, in the book stacks, or vinyl tiles in the reading rooms, general areas and corridors. The book stacks are provided with tungsten reflectors and special tungsten lighting is also provided in the exhibition areas.

Heating is provided by low pressure steam radiators in administrative offices and by floor and ceiling coils in the reading and exhibition rooms. Air-conditioning has been provided in the two book stacks, and considerable use has been made of acoustic tiles throughout the building.

The dimensions of the principal areas are as follows:

Geography Reading Room	815
Academic Staff Reading Room	870
Rare Books Room	535
Catalogue Hall and Control	2,075
Map Room	235
Periodicals Room	770
Research Rooms 1, 2 and 3	365
Microfilm Reading Room	600
Exhibition Hall	1,740
Photographic Department	980
Book Sorting and Processing	1,190
Staff Offices	2,100
Rest Room	110
Kitchen, Lavatories and Cloakrooms	2,120
Cleaners' Rooms	215
Entrances	600
Staircases, Corridors and Book Service Ramps	9,180
Heating, Ventilating and Lift Service Rooms	2,300
	<hr/>
	55,655

A note on some special items of furniture and equipment may be of interest:

*Upper Book Stack*



**OUR COVER**

Cover picture is of the outside of Exeter University Library viewed from the south.

*Photographic Department:*

- Kodak Microfile Camera AH5.
- 1/2 plate enlarger Durst Laborator 138.
- De Vere Enlarger 5 in. by 4 in. Wall Model.
- Camera Hasselblad S.O.C.C. 2 in. by 2 in.
- Kodak Drying Cabinet Model P.Ser.2.
- Rapid Colour Processing Outfit Model H.11-L.
- Watson Microscope and Camera Attachment (Bactil 60 microscope).
- Dry Mounting Press Ademco Model 1518.

MPP Camera and Wide Angle Lens. 35 mm. Camera "Pentacon" with three Lenses.

The Microfilm Reading Room is equipped with a Thermo-Fax Filmac 100 Microfilm Reader-Printer, two Microfilm Readers, one with electric motor and one hand-operated, four Readex Model D. Microreaders, a Recordak Microcard Reader Model 6B, and a Kodak Model AH Microfilm Reader.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Room is provided on three sides with glass-fronted bookcases, with cupboards below, a strong room and air-conditioning plant, an ultra-violet lamp, a mobile trolley lamp, two clamp-type lamps and a magnifying lamp. The Exhibition Hall is equipped with two wall display cases, three double-sided display cases and display stands.

Other items of equipment include a Xerox 914 Photocopier, and a Rotaprint R75.

Finally it may be noted that the

<i>Departments</i>	<i>Area (sq. ft.)</i>
Lower Stack Floor	11,375
Upper Stack Floor	11,375
Reading Room 1 (Social Sciences)	4,000
Reading Room 2 (French Literature)	735
Reading Room 3 (French and Italian Literature)	1,005
Reading Room 4 (English Literature)	1,365

present building comprises Stages 1 and 2 only of the final structure. Stage 3 will involve an extension of the library to the south, and plans for this extension have already been considered by the architects.

The architects, contractors and principal sub-contractors were as follows:

*Architects:* Messrs. William Holford & Partners, London.

*Quantity Surveyors:* Messrs. Gardiner & Theobald, London.

*Main Contractors:* Messrs. H. Fairweather & Co. Ltd., London.

*Mechanical and Electrical Consultants:* Messrs. T. Dunwoody & Partners, Harrow, Middlesex.

*Structural Consultants:* Messrs. F. J. Brand & Partners, London.

*Principal Sub-Contractors:* Mechanical Services: Messrs. Norris Warming, Bristol.

Electrical Services: Messrs. Duncan Watson, Taunton.

Metal shelving was supplied by Libraco and wooden shelving by B. Serota Ltd.

weekends and for longer hours in vacations. There is in fact some library accommodation open till 10 p.m. every day of the year except for public holidays.

The building therefore has a large area with separate access on the ground floor, which can be used independently of the rest of the building at such times, and it is so organised that the only supervision required is that of a library porter. This accommodation consists of general reading rooms with reference books, current periodicals rooms, a newspaper reading room with back files, a microfilm reading room, typing rooms and carrels, providing seating for 214 readers in all. Such provision does raise a number of administrative problems particularly in relation to the changeover from full to partial opening but most of these have proved to be capable of solution.

Apart from this special area, the general plan for the open access areas is to have books and readers together on the first and second floors of two wings, with the circulation areas, public services, and administrative offices concentrated in a centre block. The wings are entirely flexible for adaptation to reading areas or book-stacks, having no internal structural walls and with full load-bearing floors throughout. The normal arrangement for readers is three on each side of 8 by 5 ft. tables placed round the window walls.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that, in spite of some criticism in library circles of reading tables with centre divisions and lights, this system has been adopted, with the apparent approval of the users. Experiment seemed to show that the combination of top lighting of a comfortable intensity and more concentrated table lighting give good

# No. 4: KEELE

by S. O. STEWART

TO write about a library building, in the planning of which one has been intimately involved, is like reviewing one's own book. It is somewhat embarrassing and necessarily lacks objectivity. On the other hand, formal statistical descriptions of new buildings tend to become boring because they appear to be variations on the same theme, and perhaps the only justification for appearing in print is to highlight special features and risk the temptation of indulging unashamedly in a piece of gamesmanship.

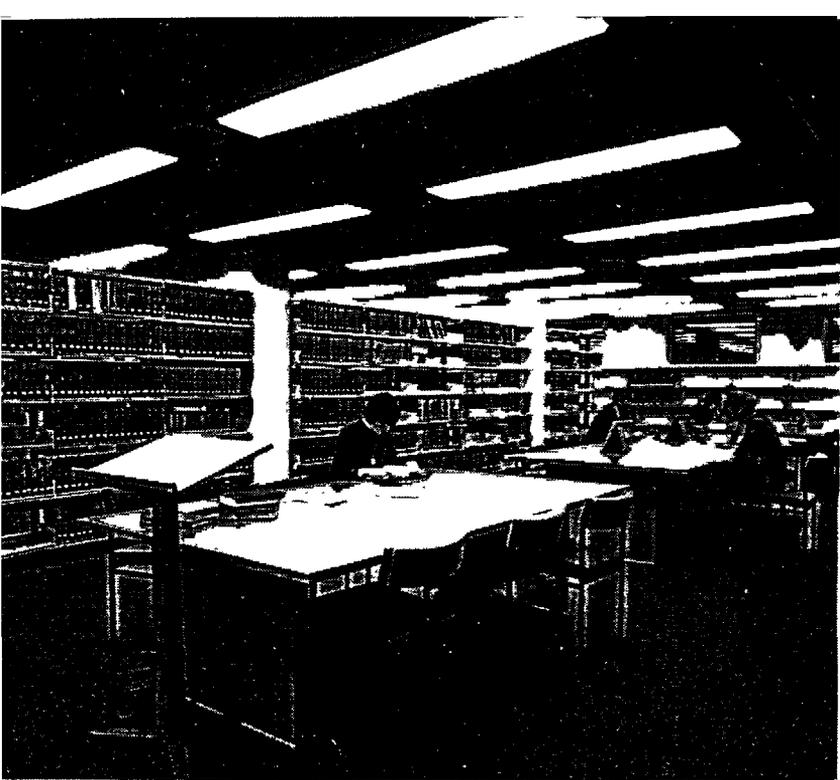
There is little to say about the external appearance of the library at Keele except perhaps that it cannot be labelled with any particular style of architecture. It is certainly, and deliberately, not "modern contemporary". It is a healthy sign that the architecture has raised some controversy, as is inevitable in matters of taste. The clock tower, a distinctive feature, was incorporated at the

request of the university to provide a general campus timepiece. The overall height was largely limited by the need for anti-subsidence precautions which also involved special foundation work and slip-joints in various parts of the building.

Perhaps the most important criterion in planning a library is to provide a building which is convenient to the user, and is adapted to the specific needs of the particular institution which it serves. At Keele the long period of frustration, in temporary accommodation, between the opening of the University College of North Staffordshire in October 1950, and the opening of the first two stages of the permanent building in October 1962 was not without its advantages, in that it provided some experience of the specific requirements to be incorporated. The main one was the need for the provision in a residential university in a rural area of library working facilities at

*Keele University Library—front elevation.*





*The Law Library at Keele University*

results and a certain amount of privacy to the readers. There seems to be a certain reluctance on the part of some architects to spoil the aesthetic appearance of a reading area by this means, and a tendency to substitute relatively poor lighting and a canteen-like appearance.

With the third and fourth stages of the building completed last summer, the total accommodation provides for over 600,000 volumes and 750 readers, of whom 89 are in completely-enclosed carrels allocated to research workers for periods of up to a term at a time. In the matter of carrels, the case for partially-enclosed carrels provided in so many libraries has always escaped me.

To meet the needs of the first-year undergraduates (the Foundation Year in the Keele four-year curriculum), who all take the same integrated course involving all subjects in the university and therefore produce a heavy and concentrated demand for books, a special "library within the library"—a sort of quick-service cafeteria as opposed to the main restaurant—is provided, where multiple copies (up to about 80) are housed and issued for use within the library during the week, and for loan over the weekend. This room is situated in close proximity to the main entrance to the building to minimise traffic, and has accommodation for about 15,000 volumes.

There is also a separate room provided for the Law Library, with accommodation for 30 readers and over 6,000 volumes, in which classes can be held, with immediate access to Law Reports. Other separate rooms include seminar rooms suitable for small classes in bibliography, etc., a staff reading room, more elegant than heavily patronised, a music library incorporating a record lending section, and, with the hopeful arrogance of a young institution, a small Rare Book room.

A special area comprising three rooms on the top floor of the centre block is completely air-conditioned for the storage of manuscripts and films and is linked to staff offices, an archive repair room, and a manuscript consultation room. The only other completely air-conditioned room is the strong room on the ground floor. For a library situated in a comparatively clean rural area air-conditioning of the whole building was not considered essential.

In other non-public areas on the ground floor extensive use has been made of electrically operated compact shelving for storage purposes. There is also a large and very well-equipped Photographic Department with an area of about 1936 square feet, consisting of an office, store, studio, and two dark-rooms, housing a Photostat camera (also used in conjunction with Xerox 1385 equipment

for plate-making), microfilm and microfiche cameras, and X-ray camera, dyeline machine, reader-printer, three enlargers, automatic processing equipment for colour and black-and-white, infra-red, ultra-violet and other ancillary equipment. Planning for this highly specialised department was probably the most intricate and detailed because of the special services and control requirements in heating, lighting, water supply and drainage.

Closely connected with the Photographic Department is the Reprographic Department, housing in one room the quick-copying services with three Xerox machines and an electronic stencil cutter, and in an adjoining room two offset-litho machines, a headliner machine and ancillary printing, collating and folding equipment. A binding room is provided in the building and is being equipped for full operation with professional staff in the near future, but in the meantime only spiral and perfect binding and laminating is carried out by unskilled staff.

## Built-in bookshop

Also incorporated in the building, at ground level with independent access, is a bookshop, a branch of Students' Bookshops Ltd. This arrangement which suggested itself from experience in temporary accommodation has considerable advantages for the bookshop, its customers and the library. In place of the usual cloakroom accommodation normally relegated to the ground floor, and because readers are allowed to bring coats and cases inside the library, coat cupboards, with captive coat-hangers, are provided throughout the building in all public areas. The entrance to the library is controlled by turnstiles and a porter's box continually manned for checking out all books and contents of cases.

As far as services in the building are concerned, the heating arrangements are mainly by mechanically circulated hot water ceiling installations or wall radiators and all windows are double-glazed, incorporating sun blinds, either of the vertical or horizontal types. Lighting is mainly fluorescent, including table lighting, with some tungsten lights in corridors, offices, etc.

A great deal of attention was paid to lighting because it is only too evident that this subject has been frequently neglected in library planning in the past, and much experi-

mental work was carried out with the consultants particularly with regard to stack lighting which creates considerable problems where book stacks are relatively close together. In this connection floor covering is of major importance to get the maximum benefit of reflected light on the lower shelves, and for this reason light-coloured lino and p.v.c. tiles have been used, whereas in some major reading areas Tretford carpet has been laid. Most walls and ceilings have been painted in light colours but considerable use has also been made of Suwide wall-cloth covering for walls and pillars.

While wood has been used for shelving in reading rooms the main bookstacks are Luxfer metal shelves with some Terrapin Reska shelving in selected areas. The woodwork throughout the building is in the main either afrormosia or beech and most of the wooden furniture has been made to specification and supplied by Esavian.

## Shopping around

An attempt has been made to provide a variety of seating arrangements; at reading tables, in lounge areas with easy chairs and coffee tables, in carrels, in typing rooms, and in small seminar rooms. Obtaining comfortable chairs of good appearance to stand up to student usage and also be within the budget allowance requires shopping around and has led to a wide variety of results in new libraries.

In view of the limitations imposed on the plan of the building by the need to take precautions against possible subsidence, there are only three floors and in consequence the ground area is considerable. To avoid the expense and inconvenience of building around quadrangles, and to break up the solid mass of bookstacks concentrated in the heart of the building, considerable use has been made of roof lights and light wells for the first and second floors, and to minimise distances between parts of the library the main entrance, with control desk, etc., has been placed at the centre of the building on the first floor.

There are two lifts, capable of taking trolleys and persons, and for communications, apart from Telex and G.P.O. telephones, there is an internal telephone service and a radio staff location system. A G.P.O. coin-box and a university internal telephone are provided for the use of readers.

For exhibition purposes there is no separate room but on the first and second floors there are a dozen exhibition cases round the walls of the central circulation area and the walls themselves are covered with Canotex and provided with picture lighting for display purposes.

The public catalogue is in sheaf form, housed in custom-made "pigeon-holes" and this, in addition to being economic of space, provides the possibility of incorporating book shelves for bibliographical reference books.

For the future, the library is fortunate in having a splendid central and commanding site on the campus, and the University Development Plan reserves ample space for future extensions on three sides. Plans for the next stage are already under consideration. Planning in several stages has many disadvantages, particularly as far as the earlier stages are concerned. To get a fully operational library something of everything has to be included at the beginning, with the inevitable result that certain areas will later prove to be too small. Nevertheless there are some real advantages to be gained, especially in acquiring experience from actual use so that earlier mistakes and miscalculations can be rectified.

The publication of an article on a new building is usually regarded as a fitting occasion for a certain amount of fulsome flattery, or "white-

washing", of architects and others involved in the project. While not indulging in either, I would like to record that any success the building may have is certainly the result of the co-operation and teamwork of the co-mentioned parties through whose efforts, in spite of delays in supplies, all stages of the building were completed on time. What is more remarkable, by skilful planning, they managed to achieve the result of producing a building, without sacrificing high standards of workmanship, which cost less than the somewhat rigid limitations imposed by the schedules of the University Grants Committee.

In parenthesis, it is perhaps interesting to note that the firm of architects was also responsible for such widely-different library plans as those of the Universities of Newcastle and Reading.

*Architects:* Easton Robertson Preston and Partners, London.

*Quantity Surveyors:*

Stages 1 and 2: Crosher & James, London.

Stages 3 and 4: Gardiner & Theobald, London.

*Structural Engineers:* R. Travers Morgan & Partners, London.

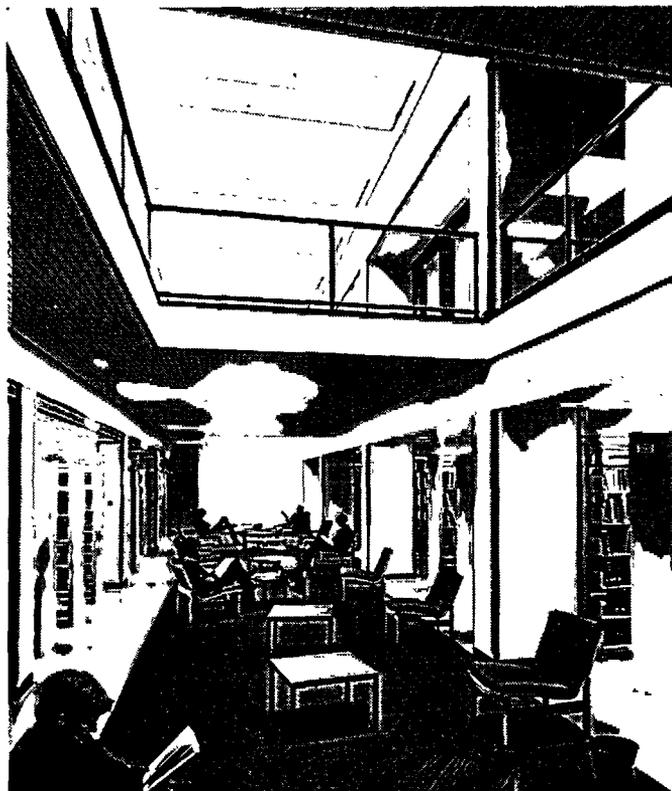
*Electrical and Mechanical Consultants:* Hoare, Lea & Partners, Birmingham.

*General Contractors:*

Stages 1 and 2: Cooper Bros. & John Clayton Ltd., Macclesfield.

Stages 3 and 4: G. Percy Trentham Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.

★  
*South Wing—  
First Floor Lounge  
Reading Area.*





by J. H. DAVIES

**R**EGULAR readers (if any) of *Musicalia* quarterly notes on how to win musical friends and influence ditto people will already be aware that I have travelled exceptionally far and fast during 1966 in pursuit of music library data. Various institutions have helped to make this possible (e.g. a publisher, the U.S. State Department, the British Council, and my employers, the BBC). Thus I was able to plan a world-wide survey in three stages: first the U.S.A., next, Eastern Europe, and lastly (still to be tackled early in 1967) the Far East, the Middle East and southern Europe.

Your editor now requires that my confused thoughts be committed, at least partially, to print in these columns, and here is the first account, before all the impressions are blurred or even cancelled by subsequent ones.

And they *are* impressions—no more, recollected in (relative) tranquillity. For the hard analytical facts of who has what, when they got it, and after whom they named it (though the American process usually works in reverse, a rich benefactor looking around for something to perpetuate his memory) you must go, to the encyclopaedic articles (e.g. Grove, "Libraries and Collections," MGG "Musikbibliotheken und Sammlungen", and the article "Vereinigte Staaten" in *Lieferungen* 126-7), to the periodical literature (as listed in *Library Literature* and analysed by Dorothy Coleman in an Atlanta University thesis of 1963) and lastly not leastly to the brochures published by the libraries themselves, of which I think I have the bulkiest collection ever.

In fact I emerged after an all-too-American type lightning tour of three weeks in April and May looking much like a schoolboy just escaping from an Olympia or Earl's Court exhibition. All these brochures, a mere token sampling of course, limited to those few libraries I was able to visit personally, will eventually be deposited in the L.A. Library to ease the path, so arduously and

expensively trodden by the writer, of some future armchair thesis-writer, to whom good luck.

I flew around the States in anti-clockwise fashion, and shall get hopelessly muddled if I attempt any other sequence for my impressions. Out of a clear sky, my ears tingling with T.W.A.'s *Symphony of the Air* (Glenn Gould's selection from the "48" and Berwald's *Sinfonie Singulière* heard on stereo headphones at least four times round—break for the T.W.A. *Film of the Weak*, I dropped into Washington's Library of Congress (how easy it is to pick up *Times* jargon). Dr. Spivacke would fain have had me disporting among the cherry-blossom (it was just that

"For I'm off to Philadelphia in the morning"—the old song came true, my next call being the Edwin A. Fleisher Music Collection (part of the Free Library) where the quietly genial (there *are* quiet Americans) Theodore Seder received me, and signed me up for the new (xeroxed and revised) issue of vol. 1 of the published catalogue of 1933. Besides their 2,000 scores and their microfilms they have over 10,000 sets of orchestral parts and they copy over 60,000 pages a year. I really felt quite at home, particularly as their conditions of loan (excluding availability through hire or sale, and to individuals) so closely match those of the BBC.

## U.S. music libraries: the East and Mid-West

week) but the heavens opened, drowning the thousands of sightseers who had not the wit to pop into a library. Congress's Chief of the Music Division wisely left the grand entrance hall, with its Italian marble and mosaic until last, so that I was not too stunned.

But impressed I was, very naturally, by his empire, so rich and so opulently staffed. There was an Olympian air about it, reflecting the terrific pull which Congress can exert when it wishes, making composers *want* to deposit (or sell) their autographs, enabling the librarian to cock a snook at officialdom where tape-recordings of contemporary music are concerned (and he living to see the day when the objectors returned beseeching use of the tapes they'd tried to confiscate). Congress has its own music lecture series (published by the Elson Memorial Fund), its concert-giving (on four of its five Strads), Whittall and Coolidge Foundations, its exhibitions, its cataloguing rules, its microfilm service (well, read the brochures, as I say).

They also lend tapes, as one of the repositories for the Recording Guarantee Project of the American International Music Fund. A major task, just being completed at that time (April) was that of establishing performing editions of large scale works by Charles Ives. A wonderfully practical service, which deserves the "programme credits" received from concerts and network broadcasts at home and abroad. The Drinker choral collection in the main part of the Free Library and its catalogue were touched on in *Musicalia* (August). Time allowed only for a brief account of the city's musical life from the resident native-born professor Dr. Otto Albrecht, an actual visit to the Curtis Institute being ruled out.

New York that same night and the Library and Museum of the Performing Arts (the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center) to give it its full title, next morning. Vast rooms, lovely exhibitions (permanent and current), headphones every ten paces (almost), deep-pile carpets, but alas

virtually no natural daylight. The eternal neon lighting combined with the fierce heating tired me, I must admit, but the welcome from old colleagues like Philip Miller (already then almost retired) was very cheering.

This institution has built itself firmly into the fabric of New York's musical life, with the Theatre Collection, the Rogers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, the recent Toscanini Memorial Archives (see *Fontes Artis Musicae* 1966 2/3), The Dance Collection, the Children's Library (7,000 books and 3,000 record albums)—the full audio-visual treatment, in a word, from the classics to jazz, pop and Broadway.

Apart from libraries and private visits one of the most memorable afternoons I spent in New York was with the New York Pro Musica ensemble, who were rehearsing. Here I heard at first hand a remarkable success story of high artistic endeavour in the recreation of early music on reconstructions of ancient instruments. To my delight I learned that the instrumentalists could now make a secure living with this sort of repertory as a centre piece (a way of life, rather), which is a unique achievement, I believe. To my sorrow I heard of the recent death in an early age of the group's founder Noah (*Play of Daniel*, etc.) Greenberg.

So that was New York, tantalisingly—no time for the "Met" (new or old), the Mapleson opera Service, N.B.C., C.B.S., Columbia, Juilliard, *et al.* Another time, perhaps.

## On to Boston

Up the coast to Boston, a marvellous sight from the crystal-clear air, and a pleasant day in the Allan A. Brown collection, whose published catalogue (1910-16) was the first such that I can recall seeing in the Birmingham Reference Library in the late twenties. The fairly recently appointed Music Librarian entertained me and I was intrigued to find that the growing practice of appointing trained musicians was exemplified here, and that she had needed to add the M.L.S. qualification to her musical ones.

There's something to be said, atmospherically speaking, for the dark, solider comforts of these large library buildings of the turn of the century. I noticed it repeatedly on the east coast and in Chicago. Everyone complained of the lack of space but my first impressions of comfort and well-tried, traditionally

planned edifices was frequently more pleasant than in some of the new ones I saw. This often applies to concert halls as well as libraries, and certainly to Philadelphia and Boston.

In each of these cities there is the closest collaboration between library and symphony orchestra, indeed the Brown collection owes its origin to Apthorn's survey following the founding of the Boston Symphony, when the deficiencies of the city's library service were realised and put right in 1894.

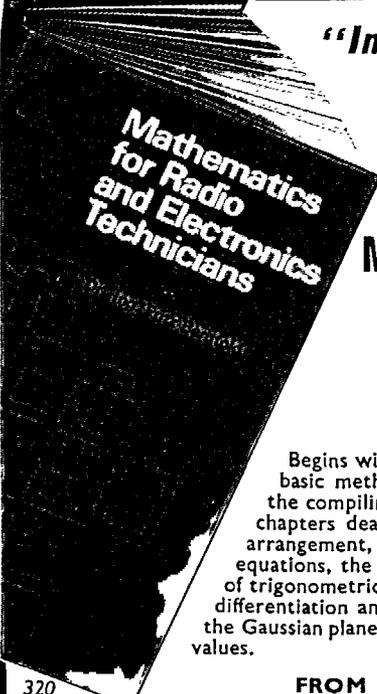
And so, on to Chicago, where Donald Krummel of the Newberry Library and his staff did the very considerable honours of that venerable, independent institution, and arranged a lunch for me to meet colleagues representing the other (university, college, etc.) music library interests of this challenging city, whose keen wind from Lake Michigan is matched by the keenness of its musical life. I had not seen before carpets (presumably nylon) breaking the barrier between side-walk and entrance hall. What are these carpets like under snow and slush, I wonder? They looked astonishingly spry in April.

Perhaps I neglected the riches of Chicago's other libraries, but the

opulence of the Newberry, particularly as it is only one department in a general library devoted to the humanities, went to my head and devoured the available time. But whether it was the night-view over the lake, the sky-scrapers and the stock-yards, or the enthusiastic and highly expert professional chatter at a party of players after the symphony concert, Chicago was a tremendous stimulus, and I must confess, a great surprise in countless ways.

Ten days after leaving London I was air-bound again for a further and even more surprising new world—California. My sorrow was to have to ignore the rest of the mid-West (particularly Detroit, Urbana, Minneapolis) to say nothing of the rest of the east coast. Nowadays, since world-travel is merely a matter of money, goggling at new sights and sounds, and showing-off slides, is the merest small change of amateur travelloguers, and even librarians by the hundred are crossing the world, sometimes for little more than a week-end.

This does nothing, luckily, to leaven the vividness of the first time ever, as all this was for me, and I hope to convey something of that in another instalment fairly soon.



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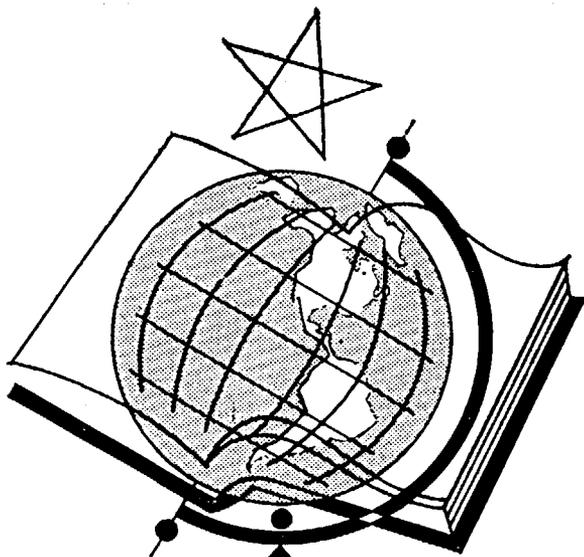
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# COSMOGRAPHIA

## *A librarian's world*

**T**HE TRAGIC LOSSES IN FLORENCE tended to overwhelm the imagination, so that apart from those directly involved in the work of restoration, few British people seem to have bestirred themselves, so far as is known, and there has been no nation-wide professional response, no appeal by the Library Association, the British Museum, the National Central Library or any other central institution claiming leadership.

Statistics tell the story in outline: nearly three-quarters of a million books lost or damaged (some of them on temporary deposit for restoration from churches in Tuscany and housed, calamitously, on the ground floor of the Uffizi Gallery) and thousands of manuscripts including State archives, irreparably damaged by water and by the newly menacing ingredient of urban life—fuel oil—borne on the floods.

The Faculty Library had 100,000 books damaged, many of them irretrievably; in the Vieussieux Collection, a quarter of a million volumes, while some 300,000 of the National Library's Treasures have been affected. The delicate process of drying them out is likely to last three months, after which comes the equally hazardous task of restoring and rebinding. It will be slow, it will

be fraught with risk, and it will be expensive, throughout the five years which will be needed.

One hopes that librarians in this country will have made their personal contributions towards the cost, without waiting for a professional lead; given adequate financial support, the authorities now calculate that approximately 90 per cent of the volumes may be saved—considerably more than was feared at first. But relief at this news should not be allowed to mask the fact that even at this rate, over 70,000 rare, precious or unique items will be lost.

After the first stunned shock of realisation, there should be two reactions from true librarians—a financial contribution to the restoration fund, and a reassessment of local library premises' risks from similar disasters. That it happened a long way away does not alter the fact that there are libraries, record offices, art galleries and museum with basements, near to rivers in Britain. It could happen here.



**T**O A LIBRARIAN, THE SHACKLETON report on university libraries in Oxford makes quaint but unhappy reading. Here is a great learned institution, belatedly aware of the inadequacy of its library provision,

and attempting to find solutions to the problems to be faced. It establishes a powerful committee, which not only receives written and oral evidence, but also sends delegations or individuals to visit libraries abroad, and to discuss library matters with foreign librarians. They prepare a thorough report, detailing the symptoms of the disease, and prescribing remedies with which few would disagree. Indeed, many of those suggested—particularly relating to co-operative developments—would have been put into effect by librarians long since, and would probably have made the committee unnecessary. But the fundamental cause of the illness is ignored.

### Graduate in charge

Only ingrained academics would attempt to deny that libraries must be administered by people who are librarians, by avocation and training, first, foremost and full-time. Naturally academic libraries need librarians who are also academically trained; indeed, the time has arrived when a library of any significance needs a graduate to run it: young men and women who have the intellectual capacity for a professional career proceed naturally now to a university, and they, and the academic training they receive, are lost to librarianship if they be not recruited subsequently.

Librarians accept this nowadays; anyone who still doubts it should compare the number of graduate chief librarians today with the total a decade ago. But the corollary is not accepted by the majority of academic librarians, despite its self-evident nature.

In these days of rapid expansion in the number of students and the volume of publications; increasing sophistication in techniques and equipment, and a steadily changing pattern in tertiary education and administrative practices, librarians need to devote themselves wholly, exclusively, to the practice of librarianship, in order to be able to adjust themselves, and their provision, to changing circumstances. They need to have a basic grounding in the principles (not merely "technical competence", Mr. Shackleton) of librarianship; to devote their whole minds and energies to the study and solution of both day-to-day and long-term library problems, and to bring to these solutions an expanding familiarity with practice elsewhere, derived from and fed by constant

application to the literature of librarianship, and attendance at professional conferences and meetings.

The time has come to state publicly that the shibboleth of academic status has had its days as the sole criterion of competence as a librarian in any library, from the British Museum downwards. "Subject expertise gained by a research degree" (para. 346) is obviously important for a person selecting books or assisting readers in that subject. But it is not "an equally valid qualification for librarianship in a university library" to professional qualifications. A misguided assumption that it is has produced the situation described in the Shackleton report, and has been responsible for similar results in other institutions, including certain government departments, national and academic establishments in the past.

It is this which the Shackleton committee have overlooked, despite the evidence of those American learned libraries which they visited—and their American hosts have been too tactful to point it out to them.

★

ONE OF THE PERENNIAL PROBLEMS which practical librarians should be able to solve is that of the emigrating manuscript. After the embarrassment of the Caxton Ovid, saved for this country by the generosity of the tenth American to be asked for help, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind of the need for machinery to prevent a repetition of the situation precipitated in Britain by the sale at auction of an important literary document for £90,000.

That it was by no means an isolated incident those who study the auction catalogues will know; an article in *The Times* for 2nd February drew attention to the fact that in a single year, 1965, "there were 230 applications to the Board of Trade for licences to export manuscripts worth more than £50 each, in addition to four applications for bulk licences for bundles of less valuable documents. In all except three cases a licence was granted (present writer's italics).

The article proceeds to detail the case of the *Boke of Brome*, a 15th-century manuscript commonplace book of 81 pages, 8 in. by 5½ in., from Brome Hall in Suffolk, privately sold to an anonymous American buyer for £7,400 after being offered to the British Museum for £10,000. The expert adviser recommended granting an export licence, and so it was not even considered by the

## 'The Library World' Publicity Awards

THE LIBRARY WORLD Publicity Awards will be continued in 1967, and entries for material published by libraries during the calendar year 1966 are now invited.

The competitions are open to libraries of all types anywhere in the world, though there are two separate sections for (1) Libraries in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (2) Libraries Overseas.

Under each of these two sections there are three groups, as follows: (A) Annual Reports; (B) Booklists and other bibliographical publications; (C) Library Publicity generally or specially. Libraries may of course enter for any or all of these groups.

The judges' decisions will be final, and no correspondence can be entered into as far as their decisions are concerned.

Certificates will be awarded to the first three winners in each section and group, and the names of the award-winning libraries will be published in THE LIBRARY WORLD.

No entry forms are necessary. Librarians are now invited to enter material published during the calendar year 1966 in sealed envelopes clearly endorsed with the words THE LIBRARY WORLD PUBLICITY AWARDS.

Address all entries to the Editor, THE LIBRARY WORLD, 10 New Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4 not later than June 17th, 1967.

reviewing committee, despite the fact that among its contents is "the best and fullest text of the medieval mystery play *Abraham and Isaac*".

The Cambridge scholar Mr. Ralph Bennett, in the *Sunday Times* of 29th January, spelled out the problem—the vast sums involved on such occasions and the comparatively brief time customarily available in which to raise them—and put forward a tentative proposal to solve it, viz., a series of expensive facsimile editions of manuscripts and other rare and important works, similar to the facsimile Ovid which is being published by Mr. George Braziller, which should be published now in order to build up a fund from which to purchase other important MSS as they become available.

The *Times Literary Supplement* editorial of 26th January expressed the commonly felt relief, and indicated that another time this country might not be so fortunate, after which the present writer offered again his suggestion that a central fund be established with an initial government grant, from which purchases might be made, and then sold to appropriate institutions, payment being by instalments if necessary.

Again there has been no official move: SCONUL considered the problem at Swansea in September 1966, with results which have not been published; the Library Association has made no pronouncement, and has no official policy, on the issue. As usual, it is the responsibility of no single institution or association to bring unity of aim and method to

he many independent bodies having an interest in the matter.

Until this happens, individual librarians might consider what steps, if any, they might take. Too few university librarians in Britain think in big enough terms where MSS are concerned, and in consequence the resources available are paltry measured against current auction prices. Some are not even aware of the Victoria & Albert Museum fund from which they may obtain 50 per cent of the cost of approved purchases.

Public librarians, in too many instances, have shrugged off responsibility, and have made no attempt to acquire even locally important works. One of the exceptions is Westminster, which recently acquired important manuscript records of the furniture firm of Waring & Gillow with the help of a grant. County librarians in particular have neglected an opportunity, although it is known that where an effort has been made, results have often been good.

One step which all librarians should take is to subscribe generously to the

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ONE INCIDENTAL, BUT PLEASING outcome of the Caxton MS appeal which came to notice was the enterprise of the Loughborough School of Librarianship, where a bookmark bearing Caxton's device of 1487 was printed, in two colours on handmade paper, and sold at 2s. 6d. per copy in aid of the appeal fund. It is understood that all copies were disposed of quickly.

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Friends of the National Libraries, whose resources are far too small, and are spent on other libraries than the national. In addition, they should press for national action to remedy the situation, and insist on their professional association's giving a lead. Had the L.A. Council felt that its members cared sufficiently, they would have formulated a policy by now? They made a loud enough protest on behalf of local authority librarians' salary gradings.

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ANY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN WHO takes himself or his job too seriously is urged to read pp. 103-113 of *The Worm re-turns: the best from "The Worm-Runner's Digest"*, ed. James V. McConnell (Allen & Unwin, 1966, 21s.). They contain a delightful spoof by Garrett Hardin, Professor of Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, entitled "The Last Canute", which purports to give the minutes of the final meeting of the "Board of Trustees of the New Alexandrine Library Fund".

The fund has been established by a businessman as a means of solving the universal problem of the academic library—the proliferation of literature at a rate beyond authorities' capacity to accommodate it, com-

bined with librarians' inherent inability to part with a single volume, however idle it may remain. Twenty million dollars have been made available to the libraries of Harvard, Columbia, Chicago and Stanford, on condition that for each \$10 they applied for, one book of at least 500 pages must be removed forever from the stacks and destroyed. "Of course, there had to be a lot of legally complicated condition designed to prevent the libraries' acquiring duplicates of the very books discarded, which they might very well do, *for librarians have collectors' morals*".

This enjoyable send-up of traditional library attitudes abounds in felicitous phrases and similes, such as that in italics above. Others which might be quoted: "Many of them (librarians) are simply bibliographic pack-rats" (p. 108), or, on p.103, a world is envisaged as being "suffocated . . . by their own intellectual excreta". The writer is indebted to E. T. Bryant of Widnes for drawing his attention to this amusing piece in a book which has other gems, including some lovely cartoons, and an essay containing the following: ". . . the sound of the IBM machines in the next room, which constantly muttered "*cogito ergo sum*" (p. 69).

ONE OF THE MOST PLEASING AWARDS for a long time was the RIBA's imaginative gesture in presenting their Royal Gold Medal to the art historian Professor Nikolaus Pevsner, whose architectural *Domesday Book*, the Penguin *Buildings of England* series, is the envy of most European countries, yet is not even available in all its volumes, as it should be, in every public reference library in England.

Colleagues working in counties yet to be covered (31 volumes have been completed to date, several having had more than one edition) wistfully hope that they may be visited next, and so may soon have the benefit of his scholarly, urbane, authoritative and fascinating guidance to hand to their readers. Sensible public librarians who do have this advantage see to it that every branch library has at least two copies, for reference and home-reading. But then, not every librarian is so sensible.

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THE SEPTEMBER 1966 ISSUE OF THE American journal, *Architectural Record*, features a number of recent American academic libraries, and so complements this special issue of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

J.F.W.B.

## THE LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY

BATTY (C. D.). An introduction to Colon classification. London, CLIVE BINGLEY, 1966. (9), 90 pp., 21s.

This is another valuable study in the applicability of programmed learning to practical work in the schemes of classification. Following his success with *An introduction to the Dewey Decimal Classification*, the author has attempted the more difficult task of teaching the rudiments of practical classification by using S. R. Ranganathan's *Colon classification*, 6th edition.

A vivid, if tantalisingly brief preface by Dr. Ranganathan reveals a measure of agreement on the separation of practical work from theory, but there is some reservation on the direction to the student to begin with the index volume and end by checking with the schedules. Ranganathan prefers the student to become familiar with the main classes and to find out the main class with which a subject goes. After this has been mastered he is asked to follow the

nine steps of procedure for practical classification.

Obviously the student must accept a wide measure of responsibility for his own progress but if he responds and works systematically through the lessons, he cannot fail to gain a detailed knowledge of the classification or an appreciation of its scientific method.

Not for the first time, the profession is indebted to the research undertaken in library schools for a development that could have some significance in "in service" training. General satisfaction at the outcome, however, must not obscure the feelings of doubt that arise as one works through the exercises. Reliance on our flair, our luck or our capacity for improvisation can result in a speedy passage through the set problems. This can prove an interesting, intellectual exercise but the understanding of a classification requires more than this. As the author puts it in his final exercise

"this introduction . . . does not attempt to teach you how to think or to analyse, or to rephrase the subjects you wish to classify. That is something you must do for yourself."

The book is, as it claims to be, only a guide to the practical application of the Colon scheme but the well planned course of exercises and lessons forms an excellent introduction to the theory of the Colon scheme.

S. J. BUTCHER

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN HOSPITALS. Compiled by a Sub-Committee of the Medical Section of the Library Association. 3rd ed., 31 pp. London, THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1966. 12s. (price to members: 9s.).

The third edition of this list has appeared at an opportune time, as it is complementary to "Hospital Libraries" and "Medical Libraries in

Hospitals" recently issued by the Library Association and the Medical Section respectively. It will help all those responsible for hospital libraries to maintain a balanced collection of books and periodicals. Though it is stated in the foreword that "the number of titles must be strictly limited" librarians will be surprised to find how frequently the titles of books suggested by readers are to be found in this list.

Now that public libraries cater for the needs of medical men and medical auxiliaries, librarians will find this list particularly useful. In response to demand the number of books listed has been increased, and some new sections added.

It is to be hoped that librarians will recommend this pamphlet to all who seek their advice on the setting up of new medical libraries, as a basic balanced collection of books is essential, and sometimes lacking.

F. A. TUBBS

CAVE (Roderick) *et al.*, eds. Private press books, 1965. Private Libraries Association, 1966. 21s.

Once again this valuable checklist of books issued privately during the year in many parts of the world makes fascinating reading: it is far more than a record of 1965's publishing achievements by dedicated amateurs—and some professionals. The production details supplied for each item answer most of the questions one ponders over when admiring a happily successful variant in book design or the use of basic materials, and often there is more information here than in the original prospectus or review—always supposing that there was one.

What food for speculation there is in the statement, *Officina Bodoni: La Divina Commedia*, that "up to 35 separate printings were required" for each of the 100 water colours by Salvador Dali; and what gnashing of teeth must lie behind the note, "the first 250 copies had a misprint in the preface and none was sold", *None-such: Selected Poems*, by Alice

*Meynell!* All this excitement on two facing pages.

The bibliography of new writings about private presses continues to be a most useful feature and guarantees the researcher more hours of absorbing reading.

Each year the title page and cover designs are varied, as befits an Association concerned with typographical adventuring, but in this issue the results are disappointing. The attractive owl device, reproduced from one of the publications listed by permission of the artist, is too large for the title page; and, for a while, the cover made this reviewer mistake the whole work for a publisher's catalogue. A pity, for all the printing is very handsome.

JAMES A. DEARDEN

HOUGHTON (Bernard). Technical information sources. CLIVE BINGLEY, 1967, 101 pp., 20s.

This book attempts to deal, at student level, with three of the most prolific and daunting categories of technical literature with which librarians and others are called upon to deal. These are patent specifications, standard specifications and technical reports. Why they should be regarded as more formidable than other more conventional types of material will strike the experienced information worker as odd, but it is a fact that the average library student experiences a mental blockage in some degree or other when faced with any non-book material.

This being the case, any textbooks written simply and clearly enough to help overcome this barrier are to be welcomed, and this particular one is largely successful in fulfilling this role. As far as the physical bulk of the text is concerned, it is divided in the rough proportions of 60 per cent to patent literature, 20 per cent standards and 20 per cent report literature, which is probably a very reasonable reflection of the amounts and complexity of these classes of publications. It is written primarily for library students learning the techniques of information practice in

these fields. As such you would not expect it to deal with patents at the legal level of a patents officer, standards in the detail necessary for the quality control engineer, or reports from the standpoint of the technical editor.

It attempts, in fact, none of these things and is so much the better for it. It describes the origins, publication, contents and functions of these documents in outline before going into details as to the bibliographical apparatus available to exploit them for the purposes of research and information retrieval.

Enough legal information as to the formalities of the patent systems of the major countries is given to enable the reader to understand the principles underlying the rules of intellectual property. The major indexing, abstracting and abridging publications are described, together with instructions on their uses and usefulness. If I had any criticism to make it would be that I would have preferred to see actual examples of patent searches worked out *in extenso*, at least for the British and United States.

A further useful addition from the practical point of view would have been a list of the Patent Depositories in this country where the specifications are available. He merely mentions that they can be seen in 16 provincial libraries. (This number was reduced to 12 in 1959). Similarly he omits the two best guides to the atomic energy reports literature of the United Kingdom and the United States (J. Roland Smith's "Guide to U.K.A.E.A. documents" and "What's available in the unclassified atomic energy literature" issued by U.S.A.E.C.).

These are, however, minor criticisms which only detract in the most marginal way from the overall value of the compilation, the chapters of which are supplemented by compact literature references.

F. R. TAYLOR

PARISH (Charles). History of the Birmingham Library. London, THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. 21s.

If institutions take on the flavour of the times in which they were founded then it is a pity that the public library movement began as late as the mid-nineteenth century; instead of an earnestly philanthropic self-consciousness we might have had some of the intemperate zeal that lay so close to the apparently smooth surface of the 18th century. The period of Mr. Parish's account of the

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Birmingham Library, 1779-99, is the period of the Gordon riots and the Priestley riots, of Fox and of Wesley, of the mutiny on the *Bounty*, of the American and the French revolutions.

The proprietary libraries, of which the Birmingham Library was a typical example, seem a kind of spontaneous expression of intellectual expansion. Run by the members themselves and supported by their own money and efforts, they are a far cry from the later public libraries, supported compulsorily, if indirectly, by the people whom the legislators charitably wished to benefit. But the enthusiastic association of kindred spirits was a source of weakness as well as strength; for a crucial period the libraries were exclusive and factious, and time overtook them.

The Birmingham Library began at a time when Birmingham itself was in one of those periods of very rapid expansion and intense self-awareness that it seems to enter for a decade or two in the second half of each century. Mr. Parish begins his account of the early years of the library with a description of the forces at work in Birmingham. It must have been tempting to set these in the wider context of the times but wisely (though, perhaps, disappointingly) Mr. Parish avoids the digression.

The early history of the library is almost that of Joseph Priestley in Birmingham and Mr. Parish is able to draw on contemporary accounts to describe the association of this

remarkable man (who had already founded libraries in Warrington and Leeds) with the Birmingham Library, and the religious and political discord that was prelude to the Priestley riots, as well as the several days' uncontrollable rioting that finally drove him from the city.

Mr. Parish has set himself the task of assembling in coherent form the materials bearing on the history of the Birmingham Library in the 18th century. He has done this admirably, drawing the threads of the narrative together to give a lively picture of those 20 years. He has not been concerned either to comment in detail or to pursue the history beyond 1799, which is a pity, but he includes a chapter giving an outline history to 1955 that does much to redress the balance. It is to be hoped that he, or someone else (who will be greatly indebted to him for the work he has already done), will sometime explore the later history.

C. D. BATTY

STOKES (Roy.). Bibliographical control and service. London, ANDRE DEUTSCH, 1965. 18s.

This work has been designed principally in order to assist students working for Paper IV in the Part I syllabus of the Library Association examinations. With this in mind the author has tried to keep strictly within the syllabus, and to this end has succeeded admirably, for it would be extremely easy for such an authority to be carried away with his own enthusiasm for his subject, and to take the students with him, well

beyond the necessary examination requirements.

All too often students are given the mistaken idea in present day textbooks that so-called "standard authorities" are the only ones within a subject field, but it is a welcome change to note that Mr. Stokes goes out of his way to show that these are merely examples of their field.

Notes are concise, and neatly arranged with the chapter on contemporary production methods very well done, and done in such a way that many comparative newcomers to our professional ranks, particularly girls, who often find this subject heavy going, will find themselves rewarded by their becoming acquainted with this little book.

The first 80 or so pages consist of notes on bibliographies and works of reference, and serves as a guide to which works should be consulted, and it is consulted that is the key word, for throughout the work, the author repeats the necessity of working with the quoted works as the only method of obtaining a thorough knowledge.

It would have been preferable one feels to have seen the *Kompass Register* included instead of the now defunct *Federation of British Industries' Register of British Manufacturers*, and the tie-up between the *World List of Scientific Periodicals* and the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* brought out, but these are minor criticisms to make about an otherwise excellent, and easy to read work.

ROY KNIGHT

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Fiction (General)

BISHOP (Sheila). *The favourite sister*. HURST AND BLACKETT. 21s.

A sufficiently well written novel which deals with the gradual estrangement of Essex from Elizabeth as observed by his sister Penelope, wife of Lord Rich and mistress of Lord Mountjoy. A woman of high spirit and intelligence, she watches the downfall of her brother from his position of national hero to that of traitor with horror and disbelief. Her own lover Mountjoy, proved to be a better soldier than Essex and succeeded in Tyrone where Essex failed.

As he fell from favour and was stripped of honours, the Queen also reduced him to financial ruin by decreeing that the tax levy he had been allowed to collect

on every cask of imported wine should now revert to the crown.

The constant shifting of loyalties in and around the court, and the conflicting affections and relationships between the powerful English Establishment prior to the accession of James I are vividly imagined. Essex emerges as a man of enormous magnetism but unstable emotionally as often happens with visionary and sensitive people.

BRANDRICK (Vicy). *To let furnished*. MICHAEL JOSEPH. 21s.

An extremely funny and light-hearted account of a newly-wed couple's

struggle to find a home without snags. Their experience ranges from a flat with neighbour-trouble, to a cottage with roses round the door but little else, and finally to a town house which proves to be less elegant in function than in appearance.

The final haven, viewed serenely on Sunday to the sound of only the cathedral bells is rocked to its foundations on Monday by the heaviest of traffic, so that furniture moves and vases topple. Bess and Jim fight a valiant rearguard battle with wayward and deficient buildings and persuasive agents, but they are beaten.

Yet the ending is buoyant and hopeful, and we leave our couple on the search again, this time for a house to buy. It is all amusing, and also agreeably didactic on the perils of house tenancy and ownership.

DEAR EDITOR . . . .  
see page 262

COYSH (Edward). *Shadows like*. ANDRE DEUSCH. 25s.

The Old Kent Road; class room and school yard; the little house in which nobody is much concerned with anyone else; this is the environment in which Peter is stumbling from boyhood into adolescence. He needs guidance and sympathy, and gets neither, for the teachers at school are interested only in the clever boys, (unfortunately the one exception leaves) and his parents and older sister have given up trying to understand him.

Peter's first job in a garage is without prospects, the youth club is outgrown, and for want of anything better to do he frequents coffee bar and pub, where he is taken up by a gang of youths already on the way to idleness and crime. The company breaks his solitude a little; so do the attentions of sexually forward girls, but the one he cares for most remains aloof, and in a desperate attempt to impress her and get some money he plunges into robbery with violence.

The author knows his people, the dialogue is the true vernacular, and the doomed Peter is presented with a bitter compassion that indicts us all for giving him so little chance.

GATHORNE HARDY (Jonathan). *Chameleon*. HAMISH HAMILTON. 30s.

Charles Descartes has a highly idiosyncratic gift, he can will himself (mind and spirit that is) inside the body of anyone with whom he comes into contact. He then becomes that man or woman, and behaves as they would, although they, confused with his personality can be influenced by him, a factor which gives him power over the direction of many lives and relationships.

When Charles's poor supine body—momentarily forgotten by him—is discovered in a cupboard and rushed to hospital the task of his re-entering it, encased as it is in an iron-lung with attendant paraphernalia, gives excellent opportunity for Gathorne-Hardy's very comic writing. He has an individual talent for perceptive character drawing which may produce something more purposeful than this witty charade.

J. F. W. SHERWOOD

## Detective Fiction

HARRIS (Rosemary). *All my enemies*. FABER. 21s.

Jenny Emerson, with an adoring husband, an adorable daughter, success as a journalist, and wealth, is on top of the world. But as soon as her long lost sister Elizabeth reappears, everything starts to go wrong. Her husband dies mysteriously, the police ask many questions, the servants behave oddly. Jenny falls ill: a kidnapping and a rush to France and Egypt follow.

This is a sophisticated example of the "Had I but known" school, nicely written and characterised. But there is

enough plot for two stories, and too much is concealed from the reader. Nevertheless, Miss Harris is witty and observant, and this is a promising *debut*.

MALAMUD (Bernard). *The fixer*. EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE. 30s

This, the author's sixth book, represents the flowering of a brilliant writer. The scene is Tsarist Russia, the central figure Yakov Bok, a poor Jewish carpenter. Migrating to Kiev, he finds work, and a certain sort of tranquillity, though fearful because he lives outside the ghetto. Then a boy is found murdered, his body riddled with knife wounds, his corpse bled white. It is ritual murder, and Yakov is imprisoned.

The major part of the book is concerned with his three-year ordeal: his interrogators, some civilised, some savage: his trial, and the final journey to the gallows.

In the book's 350 pages, Yakov Bok turns into a symbol of the persecuted and a representation of the eternal Jew, not only under the Tsars, but everywhere. This is a tragic, terrifying and philosophical novel.

JOHN (Owen). *The Disinformers*. MICHAEL JOSEPH. 25s.

The scene is in Niagara Falls on New Year's Eve: the action (except for a few flashbacks) takes place in 24 hours. The world is on tiptoe waiting for a Russo-American peace conference: but the Department of Minisformation of the K.G.B. are about to blow the conference sky high, by means of Karl von Haaz, a double spy. Karl, with his mistress Cathy Davidson, is to enter the U.S.A. from Canada: he is being watched by Zurotov of the K.G.B. and Nogrinsky, a strong arm man. Charles Mason of the C.I.A. and Haggai Godin of British Intelligence are hot in pursuit, but don't know the identity of the spies, or their whereabouts.

Owen John is a master of the double cross, and when the climax comes at midnight, there is an assassination and a final confrontation at C.I.A. head-

## Dear Editor . . .

ABOUT 12 months ago, a public librarian stated in *THE LIBRARY WORLD*—"if anything, books are still too cheap".

And since that time I have been puzzled as to how he arrived at such a conclusion; bearing in mind those book price blurbs—e.g. 25s. paperback; 50s. cloth.

In this respect it is rather surprising that no one (as far as I know) in the writing, or local authority purchasing end, of books has commented on this anomaly; particularly where, in some publications, cloth merely indicates a difference of an inferior sort of hardback cover.

JOAN ELLIOTT,

*Borough Librarian and Curator,*  
RAWTENSTALL, LANCS.

quarters. Brilliant, mystifying and moving with speed, this is an excellent spy story.

W. B. STEVENSON

## Literature

BREIT (Harvey) and LOWRY (Margaret B.). *The Selected letters of Malcolm Lowry*. CAPE. 55s.

In the Introduction to this volume Harvey Breit writes that Malcolm Lowry's letters "... give the reader a rare opportunity to get inside a writer's workshop." This is so but it is not that of an ordinary craftsman. Here one sees the mind of a genius facing poverty, of an alcoholic, of someone who not only attained Heaven but more often Hell. He was dogged with ill luck and misfortune.

Sometimes when reading volumes of letters I have a slight feeling of peeping in at somebody's letters intended only for those to whom they are addressed. Not so with these. They make the reader feel almost personally concerned. This, no doubt, is due to the careful selection by the editors. Those published represent about two-thirds of the letters available.

Accepted by Cape and an American publisher in the spring of 1946, *Under the Volcano* was published. It did not become a best seller, rather it gradually gained recognition. Cape have just re-issued it as a companion volume to these letters.

The contents of some of the letters and the way in which they are written holds the interest and often it is hard to stop reading in the middle of a letter. The one to the Chief Editor of *Scribners*, written when living in British Columbia, regarding difficulties (if this is the right word!) encountered during the acceptance of a couple of manuscripts and their publication, read like a short story. Certainly truth is stranger than fiction.

There are appendices giving letters complementary to some in the collection. The index is of names and book titles and there is a brief biographical chronology.

CAMPBELL (O. J.) and QUINN (E. G.) eds. *A Shakespeare Encyclopaedia*. METHUEN. 100s.

In this book is packed a vast amount of material from many sources. It is compiled under the editorship of two American University Professors, the first a Shakespearean scholar and Professor Emeritus at Columbia, the second a Professor of English at the City University of New York. The American publication is entitled *The Reader's Encyclopaedia of Shakespeare*.

This compendium is a repository for studies of critics, scholars, biographers, historians and many who have seriously contributed to the literature of the subject. There are some 2,700 entries contained in a thousand pages. Intended for the specialist, it should also prove useful to the student.

The volume contains many essays written by authorities. Each entry for a play is divided into a series of headings: description of the text; date; sources; plot synopsis; comment; stage history in England, in America; bibliography; and selected criticism. In the latter are important opinions from critics over the years. There are entries for individuals associated with the poet, for playwrights thought to have been influenced by him, for most characters in the plays, important actors, outstanding critics and editors of his works.

The select bibliography has something in the region of 2,000 entries on 31 pages. It is divided into two parts—Criticism and Works—and each entry within these are arranged chronologically, the latest being dated 1965. There are numerous illustrations.

E. R. GAMESTER

## History

ACCOCE (Pierre) and QUET (Pierre). *The Lucy ring*. W. H. ALLEN. 30s.

As the Second World War recedes into history, revelations of the kind described in this book become easier, because it is less likely that harm will be done to survivors. The revelations themselves are remarkable if only because of the success of Rudolf Roessler and the quantity of information he passed on to the Swiss, and Western Allies and the

Russians throughout the war. Accepting this, the actions of the Dutch, Belgians and French, ourselves and later the Russians, can only be described as bizarre, when one realised that everyone was informed in advance of the most successful German manoeuvres.

The book throws interesting and no doubt authentic light, on the role of Switzerland during the war and reads as compulsively as a thriller. The standard of the writing matches this, rarely rising above that of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E."

COWRIE (L. W.). *Hanoverian England 1714-1837*. BELL, 25s.

The "Bell Modern Histories" series of which this volume is the sixth, are straightforward surveys of fairly large periods of British or European history since the Renaissance. They are written in the main by one writer—Dr. Cowie has now done three—and they contain not only a description of main events largely in political terms, but also important background surveys on such subjects as economic affairs, constitutional matters, the changing social scene, religion and education.

Dr. Cowie's approach at first sight seems to be rather unusual—nine general chapters precede the political survey, but this method of moving from the general to the particular, has its advantages; the summary of the period at the beginning for example, throws valuable light on the men and events described later.

How far has Dr. Cowie succeeded in his aim?: "A book of this sort while not claiming to make any original contribution to the study of this period has to summarise, simplify and pass judgment on the work of (recent research)". In general he has achieved this extremely well, particularly in *Land and People, The Social Scene, The Agrarian Revolution and The Industrial Revolution*. A book covering such an important and long period could have degenerated into a mere catalogue; this it rarely does.

The section on Literature is an exception, and this is rather poor. The general chapters are clearly and well-done, however, and the writing is always direct, lucid and readable. The political section maintains the same balance between admirable short summaries of character and a judicious outline of events, which again incorporate modern thinking—the Liverpool administration is an example here, although the brief comments on George IV are facile in the extreme.

This is an excellent introduction to the period with one or two minor blemishes—the notes refer only to other parts of the book; the bibliography is very selective and the index has almost to be read with a magnifying glass.

MUNTER (Robert). *The History of the Irish Newspaper 1685-1760*. CUP, 60s.

In complete contrast to the book mentioned above, Dr. Munter has produced a scholarly examination of the growth of Irish (largely Dublin) new s

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papers during a limited period of the late 17th century and the mid 18th century. In a fascinating and lively study, he demonstrates the progress from a few papers with small circulations and dealing almost entirely with news, through growth and maturity, to the political battles over the reformers Lucas and Latouche in the late 1740s and 1950s.

Apart from the intriguing sidelights this specialised work throws on Irish life and manners in the 18th century, it also demonstrates that the problems today, have many precedents. To the modern reader for example, the description of the development of advertising and the growth of circulation will strike many chords.

Invaluable for the student and specialist—it is impeccably written and produced—this book would nevertheless also be of great interest to the general reader.

W. S. H. ASHMORE

## Biography & Memoirs

LAMARR (Hedy). *Ecstasy and me: my life as a woman.* W. H. ALLEN. 35s.

Sexy! Sexier!! Sexiest!! Bras! Bosoms!! Beds!!!

What a book! It's all here, all the eroticism you could wish for from a highly talented woman who had six husbands and divorced them all; who owned \$30 million, but squandered it; and who, when the story ends, is 51 years old and indulging in a good deal of philosophising.

But even this is sickening in parts. *It doesn't really count if you go to bed with a man once and then don't again. And: The ladder of success in Hollywood, is usually press agent, actor, director, producer, leading man, and you are a star if you sleep with each of them in that order.*

## VIVIAN GRAY

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What did she want from life? Marriage with both intimacy and independence: not happy partners. Health, love and money: she had all these, fortunately.

More reminiscences are to follow, Miss Lamarr says. If they are as bawdy and nauseating as these, I hope I'm given a fair period of recuperation.

MERLE (Robert). **Ben Bella.** MICHAEL JOSEPH. 30s.

Robert Merle was born in Algeria and it is appropriate he should have written a short biography of the President of Algeria. The book is based on 15 tape-recorded interviews and because of this is written in the first person, which is rather disturbing as there is a certain unreality about the commentary. Ben Bella's was a hectic life; particularly startling is the account of how he was tricked back into Algeria after having escaped from the country as a rebel. He was arrested by the French who were his pre-war friends, and imprisoned for six years. He had a very sincere concern for the appalling living conditions and human standards of existence in Algeria after World War II and after the country gained independence, he became its leader.

There are accounts of his meeting with Fidel Castro and President Nasser, and there emerges a picture of a very conscientious, humanitarian and vivacious personality. Where is he now? That question remains unanswered but the author believes he was killed during the night of 18th June, 1965.

JACK DOVE

## Reference

STANLEY (Louis T.). **The B.R.M. story.** MAX PARRISH. 30s.

Louis T. Stanley has already proved himself to be one of the world's finest motor racing writers. His close association with the B.R.M. organisation, however, has not prejudiced his views for he has produced here a critical examination and appraisal of what was the most criticised car in British racing history.

Mr. Stanley uncovers the controversial annals of the B.R.M. racing cars from their first embarrassing appearances in 1950 to the world-beating year of 1962 and the subsequent successful years. The many talented drivers are introduced individually and the men behind the scenes are not forgotten.

To complete this unique story, the author has provided interesting data on the cars, race results and a liberal number of illustrations many of which are from his own camera.

WILLIAMS (N.). **Chronology of the modern world: 1763 to the present time.** BARRIE AND ROCKLIFF. 60s.

This new work is one which should

shortly be appearing on the shelves of reference libraries large and small throughout the country. It treats political and international events (on the verso pages) and achievements in the arts and sciences (on the recto pages) in a year-by-year sequence, this arrangement assuring that it does not duplicate the work of NEWNES' *Dictionary of Dates*, or other chronological dictionaries covering this period. However, this separation into two sequences can confuse the reader, especially when to save space an overlapping paragraph is inserted into the foot of the preceding page. A full index helps to ease this problem.

The book makes fascinating browsing, and should help to inform at all levels of learning.

K. C. HARRISON

## Technical

WILLIAMS (L. E. H.). **Building Society Accounts.** FRANEY AND CO. LTD. 50s.

The author is a Chartered Accountant and is on the staff of the Co-operative Permanent Building Society. He states in his preface that the book is primarily for the use of students in accounting who are working for the examinations of the Building Societies Institute and other bodies, but that he hopes the book may also find a place in the reference libraries or professional accountants and auditors.

It is the first major work on building society accounts since 1949 and brings the subject right up to date dealing in principle with the various stages of mechanisation from keyboard book-keeping machines and punched card installations to computers.

After considering the general principles controlling the operations of a building society he goes on to deal with books of original entry, investors' accounts, and borrowers' accounts. Thus far it is much as one would expect, but where it breaks new ground is in its treatment of surplus fund investments. All accountants responsible for investment portfolios will find this chapter of great interest. Then follow two chapters dealing with statutory accounts, balance sheets and audit, including where necessary an interpretation of the Building Societies Act, 1962.

The final chapter, on Management Accounting, deals with budgetary procedures and suggests ways in which long, medium and short-term budgets can be presented and put to use.

This is a most useful book for all accountants and is one which many librarians might not see in the ordinary way of business. It deserves a place on the shelves of all large public libraries and others catering for management studies.

F. N. McDONALD