

sume that the author has read that many English pornographic books. The selective list, however, does not restrict itself to English works; it includes without apology writings in Latin, Italian, German, and French, as well as translations from most of those languages in addition to Chinese, Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit. Even so, fewer than 150 titles out of the "hard core" of 2,000 are so much as mentioned by name anywhere in the book, and the omissions are as significant as the inclusions. How can any study profess to deal with the impact of the erotica theme on Anglo-American letters while ignoring the writings of Casanova, Brantôme, Poggio, Rabelais, Margaret of Navarre, Boccaccio, Balzac, and so on and on? If it is objected that these are not English, one may point out that they have all been translated, and this is more than can be said of certain of the inclusions in the "Bibliography." But a dirty story is a dirty story in any language, and in fact the Urquhart-Motteux translation of Rabelais, for example, is etymologically far more Anglo-Saxon than any rendering of de Sade that comes to mind.

To anyone who has not read Ralph Ginzburg's *Unhurried View of Erotica* this review may seem unduly harsh if not in fact carping. I must confess that neither the book itself nor the muddled purpose that prompted its writing justified as much space as has been given here. A truly useful work on the subject of pornography, if ever one is written, will certainly *not* rely on sly reprintings of permissible excerpts that promise more delectable passages to the reader who is able to ferret out the complete text.—*Roland Baughman, Head of Special Collections, Columbia University Libraries.*

A Model for Small College Library Surveys

The Alma College Library: A Survey, by Richard B. Harwell and Robert L. Talmadge. Chicago: The American Library Association, 1958. 41p. \$2.00.

Though surveys of libraries of national importance attract the attention of alert li-

brarians, it is unusual for a survey of a library of lesser rank to be of much interest to anybody outside the institution's own constituency. The survey of the Alma College Library is an exception. It is exceptional because it deals with the all too common case of the undernourished small college library, a case which will cause increasing concern as small colleges are called upon to assume a greater share of the burden of the growing college enrollment. It is exceptional, too, because it is so well done that it can serve as a model for other small college libraries in need of appraisal.

Conducted under the auspices of the American Library Association by the executive secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the associate director of libraries of the University of Kansas, the survey was "part of a program of long-range planning under way on the campus of Alma College." In line with this purpose, the report describes and evaluates the present status of the library and offers both immediate and long-range recommendations.

The description and evaluation are detailed enough to be thoroughly convincing of the need for remedial measures. The recommendations are concrete enough to serve as a good blueprint for action. And the whole is presented in a remarkably lucid style, a style which is persuasive in itself.

What the Alma College Library needs most of all is money. Having suffered through a period of inadequate support it must now be given not only a proper annual budget but also emergency appropriations. Dealing with one aspect of the library after another, the surveyors demonstrate serious weaknesses which require emergency treatment.

Appraisal of the collections on the basis of a general examination, a careful scrutiny of shelves in the reference room and in the active section of the stacks, and by sample checking against the Lamont catalog, results in the conclusion that of a recorded total of sixty thousand volumes only about a third are useful for the present curriculum of the college. Vigorous weeding and vigorous acquisition are both in order. For a start of the weeding program the surveyors offer examples of long out-of-date titles

in the reference collection and estimate the percentage of volumes in each of the LC classification schedules which should be removed immediately. To strengthen the collection they recommend a substantially increased annual budget for books and periodicals and an additional amount to be allotted over a five year period for the purpose of filling in present gaps.

The periodical subscription list is more nearly adequate, but a serious arrearage in binding justifies immediate allocation of additional funds and staff to make the collection usable.

The building does not provide enough space for books or readers. It is unattractive, inefficient, lacking in such basic necessities as public rest rooms and a drinking fountain. Clearly a new building is another essential. The survey offers no detailed recommendations but it does suggest important factors to be considered in planning, e.g., the cost of a new bookstack as against the difficulties of designing an appropriate building around the present one.

The surveyors rate the staff devoted and competent but much too small. Consisting of two professionals, one half-time non-professional, all on a nine-month basis, and about 1,000 hours of student assistance, the staff is much smaller than those of certain midwestern liberal arts colleges used for comparison. Even more convincing than this comparison is the evidence throughout the report of jobs left undone (cataloging arrearages, no withdrawal of catalog cards for lost books, no weeding, too few exhibits, etc.). To improve the staff the surveyors offer recommendations which include not only details on what personnel should be hired, at what salary, and when, but also suggest job assignments.

Dealing with library government, library use, and technical processes, the survey provides many more suggestions just as specific:

The surveyors recommend that annual reporting be inaugurated.

For obvious reasons, the same set of "Exercises" should not be used in English 12 more often than every fourth year.

A large rubber stamp reading "Withdrawn From the Alma College Library" should be used inside the covers of all books discarded which bear any mark of the library's ownership.

The inclusion of such details in the survey inevitably suggests that lack of adequate financial support, serious though it is, is not Alma's only problem.

However that may be, these how-to-do-it suggestions are useful. They fit neatly into a pattern which makes this survey a good model for action. The pattern leads logically from: (1) Sound methods for evaluating the several aspects of a library—financial support, collections, staff, services, use, government, and building—to (2) General recommendations for improvement—including budget, staff, and time schedule—and finally to (3) Specific devices to stimulate an immediate start on the job.—*Patricia B. Knapp, Wayne State University.*

West Virginia Imprints

West Virginia Imprints, 1790-1863; a Checklist of Books, Newspapers, Periodicals, and Broad-sides. Edited by Delf Norona. Compiled by Delf Norona and Charles Shelter. Moundsville, W. Va., West Virginia Library Association, 1958. Publication No. 1. 316 p. illus. \$7.50.

The West Virginia Library Association, in sponsoring this publication has performed a service for students interested in the history of printing and publishing in that state. The work covers the period from the beginning of printing in West Virginia until it became a separate state. It is based on the American Imprints Inventory, *Check List of West Virginia Imprints, 1791-1830*, published in 1940, and a subsequent list compiled by Boyd Stutler. The present volume adds "about forty-five items" to the previous lists for the period to 1830 and one thousand items for the 1831-1863 period.

The work is divided into two parts, the first of which, covering books, pamphlets, and broadsides, is arranged alphabetically by author; the second, devoted to newspapers and periodicals, is arranged by place of publication and by title. A total of 1,437 items is included. Entries conform to customary cataloging practice, except that in many cases the author entry must, in a sense, be "made up." Long titles are frequently shortened, but imprint information