

Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Sable, Martin H. *International and Area Studies Librarianship. Case Studies.* Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1973. 166p.

"International" and "comparative" are among the "in" concepts in librarianship these days, as witness the marked increase in library school curricula offerings, both in Great Britain and the United States, and the geometric increase of index entries under these rubrics in *Library Literature* and *Library and Information Science Abstracts*.

Mr. Sable, too, has climbed aboard this bandwagon in choosing the title of his new book. Its purpose is to enable "students and teachers at library schools world-wide to become more aware of their international responsibilities and opportunities" (p.vi). The twenty-nine cases presented do not, unfortunately, accomplish this aim. They offer, rather, a series of problems in acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, bibliography, personnel, and reference in academic libraries. Some, though by no means all, of the questions appended to the cases have to do with "foreign" publications, organizations, or institutions, but the basic problems posed by the cases are not international in nature; the international aspect is often incidental and not essential to the issues involved. Further, the questions for each case are generally a mixed bag; some have nothing to do with the "solution" of the problem, as do cases in law or business administration texts. Thus, the first case, "The Chinese Cataloger," is concerned solely with personnel policy questions which do not in the least depend upon the fact that the staff member involved happens to be competent in Chinese (p.16-17). In case four, "Foreign Folklore," the principal questions addressed to the student are whether folklore materials are essential in the teaching of Spanish and appropriate for a college library; what obligation the college librarian has in aiding an instructor to obtain materials she deems necessary for her teach-

ing; who is responsible for setting acquisitions policy; whether folklore is a discipline; and abstracting and indexing services in the field of folklore (p.34). Again, in case twenty-four, "International Noise Pollution Abstracts," the questions are bibliographical and reference ones (p.142-143). To call cases like these "international and area studies" seems to be stretching the concepts a bit.

The cases are presented clearly and logically, though often rather naively, and they offer useful, often important questions concerning academic library policy, particularly personnel policy, and on reference and bibliography, sometimes of a "foreign" nature. Library school teachers should find the work useful.

They will need to correct or modify, for the benefit of their students, a number of statements that appear throughout the work such as, for example, the following: "Dr. Avon has made it a practice of walking off with books without checking them out. Books that haven't even been cataloged yet" (p.36). [The anthropology department has] "commandeered the head of the reference department and she is now virtually working for the anthropology department." "It also seems that recently [professor] Avon has acquired one of our other reference librarians" (p.37). [The director of the University Library has] "introduced [the Farmington Plan] at those universities in which he served as acquisitions head" (p.120). [The titles acquired by the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging are] collected by the Library of Congress for distribution to universities . . . all over the country" (p.122).—J. Periam Danton, *School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley*.

White, Carl M., and others. *Sources of Information in the Social Sciences: A Guide to the Literature.* 2d ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1973.

Dr. White, in his introduction, states that "the purpose of the book is simple, to make