Reference Books of 1961

A list of last year’s outstanding reference books, prepared specially for Lj and recommended by a committee of the Reference Services Division of the American Library Association

ANNE F. STURTEVANT

The last year has been one of active publication in all phases of reference work. The titles listed here were chosen after consideration of several times this number.

Probably the most notable volumes to appear have been the many new or revised atlases. Because special knowledge of materials is essential in this field, Dr. Walter W. Ristow, Assistant Chief of the Map Division at the Library of Congress, was asked to make some recommendations. His excellent selection of American world atlases best suited for library purchase is presented as a separate article following this list.

Librarians will note with interest the number of reference books which should facilitate work with students. Several comprehensive or unique bibliographies will aid in the search for materials. A good variety of handbooks, dictionaries, and encyclopedias will fill in some gaps in quick reference sources. Guides to special collections and bibliographies of specialized types of writings will be of value to advanced student and research workers. Also, a great deal of information about colleges, universities, and scholarships is available in inexpensive format. Certainly, these publications give evidence of the present acceleration of our educational efforts at all levels, and the urgent needs of all librarians attempting to meet the situation.

Reference books have not only appeared in abundance during the last year but they seem bigger, more detailed, and often more complex. Many are handsome and beautifully illustrated. Natural science books, particularly, seem almost luxurious. Price in some areas, such as technical handbooks, has increased tremendously. In other fields, one is often impressed by the quality available within a reasonable price range.

The selection of these titles has been an exercise in careful judgment involving all members of the committee. Assignments were again made by subject classification, and policies outlined for previous lists have been followed. Many excellent publications were not included simply because they do not quite fit the purposes of this compilation.

Several volumes of the Larousse encyclopedia series, for example, although well-written and superbly illustrated, were judged to be more appropriate for reading and browsing than for reference use. Stuart Piggott's The Dawn of Civilization falls also into this category. A number of expensive
tools, although essential for large collections, were omitted as being beyond the range of small and medium sized libraries. Some titles in business and science, as usual, belong in this group, including the 8th edition of the Metals Handbook issued by the American Society for Metals. In an entirely different area, a useful but costly book is The Sticheson Classified Song Directory, published by the Music Industry Press.

All committee members have had generous assistance and advice from co-workers. This help is most gratefully acknowledged. The committee has consisted of the following: Mrs. Julia Bartling, Head, Reference Services, State University of Iowa; Penelope Bullock, Reference Librarian, Eastern Michigan University; James K. Dickson, Head, Fine Arts Department, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Helen M. Focke, Professor of Library Science, Western Reserve University; Doris M. Savage, Head, History and Travel Division, Rochester Public Library; Thomas S. Shaw, recently retired Head, Public Reference Section, Library of Congress; Anne F. Sturtevant, Head, Education, Philosophy, Religion Department, Free Library of Philadelphia, Chairman.

Biography

AMERICAN Men of Medicine. 3d ed. Farmingdale, N. Y: Institute for Research in Biography, 768p. $20

Brief facts about more than 10,000 prominent physicians and surgeons. Lists general practitioners as well as specialists in all phases of medicine, medical educators, hospital administrators, and authors of medical books. Continues Who's Important in Medicine.


Intended for quick reference, this gives short accounts of some 15,000 nonliving Catholics. Both clergy and laity are included; however, some expected names do not appear. Bibliographical references are cited only for certain major personalities. An appendix contains: patron saints, symbols of the saints, and a chronological chart comparing ecclesiastical with secular history.

FORTUNE. Great American Scientists; America's rise to the forefront of world science. Englewood Cliffs, N. J: Prentice-Hall, 144p. $3.50; pap. $1.95

Reprints studies of leading Americans in the fields of physics, chemistry, astronomy, and biology which originally appeared in Fortune. These sketches provide useful reference data about the men, and also about American contributions to the advancement of science.


A selective list, alphabetical by author, of 6,777 autobiographies published before 1945. Each entry is annotated, with one library location given. Detailed subject index classifies the writers by occupation, geographical location, and historical period.


"Who's who of personalities and parties" (subtitle) up to the end of March 1961. Part I presents over 380 biographies of living political figures. Part II, arranged by country, gives area, population, and religious groups and describes the main political parties. Movements and leaders are cross-referenced.


Previously revised in 1949. Brings the records up through the 86th Congress, adding the names of members of the 87th Congress serving their first term.

Business and Economics

BOGUE, Donald Joseph, & BEALE, Calvin L. Economic Areas of the United States. N. Y: Free Press, 1162p. $27.50

Descriptive and statistical analysis of every metropolitan development and such general areas as the Corn Belt, the Piedmont. This is the 15th and final monograph in the Scripps Foundation Studies in Population Distribution Series.


Defines some 700 terms, including many used in architecture, statistics, construction, zoning, accounting, economics, and farming. No index, but numerous cross references.


Includes four maps for each of 15 regions, showing (a) agriculture and land use; (b) mining and minerals; (c) location of industries; (c) transportation and cities. Information given is considered to be valid as of January 1960. A page of text about each region summarizes its principal features in general terms, without statistics.
A practical reference work which aims at a comprehensive but non-technical treatment of terms in a wide range of financial activities. Illustrated with charts, tables, and demonstrations of actual "how-to-do-it" methods.

TYER, David F. Dictionary of Business and Scientific Terms. Houston: Gulf, 330p. $10

Planned for students needing an extensive business and science vocabulary. Definitions are concise, and terms selected are those most used in a large group of key industries and professions.


A major economic study of postwar Europe, dealing with the non-communist, Western-oriented countries. Changes in population, employment, working hours, productivity, and gross national product are projected from 1955 (the base year) to 1970. Hundreds of tables and charts; also appendixes and a 300-page index.

Education


Sources of financial assistance offered by nonacademic organizations are entered alphabetically, with a subject index. Information was obtained from the Scholarship Research Center in New York. An unusually complete, authoritative publication for such a price.


A comprehensive bibliography of tests for use in education, psychology, and industry (sub-title). Classified arrangement, with indexes by publisher, distributor, title, and name. Out of print tests are listed separately. Serves as an index to the Mental Measurements Yearbook series.

GARDNER, George, & WASHBURN, Stanley, Jr., eds. New Horizons in Education; the benefits of study abroad. N. Y.: Rand McNally, 526p. $1.95

Pan American Airways has sponsored this worldwide guide to universities accepting a limited number of American students. Lists also U.S. colleges with foreign study programs. An attractive bargain for small libraries.

The GIFTED: educational resources. Boston: Porter Sargent, 285p. $4

Admittedly incomplete, this is a "preliminary survey of primary and secondary schools in the United States" (subtitle). However, it brings together information about programs and courses not easily available elsewhere. Similar in make-up to other Sargent handbooks.

HANDBOOK on International Study: for U.S. nationals. 303p. N. Y.: Institute for International Education, pap. $2.50 each

Comparative volumes which supersede the one-volume HANDBOOK on International Study (1955, 2nd ed., 1958). New courses, current facts about scholarships, and revised tuition figures are recorded.

RUFSVOLD, Margaret Irene, & GUSS, Carolyn. Guides to Newer Educational Media. Chicago: American Library Association, 74p. pap. $1.50

Films, filmstrips, slides, radio, television, and phonorecords are treated in an up-to-date, well-annotated bibliography. Catalogs and lists, periodicals, and professional organizations are described. Literature related to the bibliographic control of audio-visual materials is reviewed.

WECHELER, Louis K., & others. College Entrance Counselor. (Complete college entrance book, v. 1) N. Y.: Barnes & Noble, 413p. pap. $3.50

Offers a wide range of data and advice covering both four-year and two-year colleges. The proper selection and admission procedures are discussed; extensive lists by occupation and special field of study and directories of regionally accredited schools are provided; notes on scholarships and loans are included. The companion volume, College Entrance Examinations, giving the usual sample questions, was published in 1960.

Fine Arts


A big subject is given an expansive, heavily detailed treatment in this "social and cultural history" (subtitle) sponsored by the American Institute of Architects.


Lists reproductions which can be purchased from 95 American and Canadian museums. Predominantly pictures, large or small, black-and-white or in color, with some jewelry, statuettes, etc., added. Arranged by art form and indexed by artist's names and some subjects.

DANIEL, Howard. Adventures in Art. London; N. Y.: Abelard-Schuman, 323p. 25s, $5

An unassuming international guide to 19 art museums. An account of each institution is followed by notes on ten to 20 of its famous objects, most of them paintings, with a number of small reproductions. Brief introductory history of art, glossary, reading list, and index.


The first extensive revision of this unrivaled authority since 1931 expands both text and illustrations, particularly in the sections on the Orient, the Renaissance and the Twentieth Century.
ter, 335p. $15
“A collection of the best known woodcuts, etchings, engravings and lithographs by twenty-three great artists” (subtitle) from Dürer to Picasso, with interpretive and biographical notes.

SMITH, George Everard Kidder. The New Architecture of Europe. Cleveland: World
Pub. Co., 361p. $4; pap. $1.95
Surveys and illustrates postwar building in 16 coun­tries, with a page each on 225 outstanding structures. Maps and an index of architects and building types.

Gardening and Botany

Concise and useful information on the planning, planting, and care of flowering plants, shrubs, and trees. Arranged alphabetically by the common names.

BAKER, Samm Sinclair. Miracle Gardening Encyclopedia. N. Y: Groset, 406p. $5.95
Covers all phases of gardening outdoors and in the house. A section on how to interest children in gardens is an unusual feature.

CROCKETT, James Underwood. Greenhouse Gardening as a Hobby. N. Y: Doubleday, 288p. $4.95
Very well organized, with clear directions for both the beginner and the more experienced amateur. There is an excellent section on plants suitable for greenhouses, and a calendar of what to do and when.

LEMMON, Robert Stell, & JOHNSON, Charles C. Wildflowers of North America in Full Color. Garden City, N. Y: Hanover House, 280p. $9.95
Unusually fine color photographs accompany a descriptive nontechnical text. Over 400 wildflowers are included, grouped by natural region — coastal, desert, mountain, prairie, and forest.

This supplement, also numbered as vol. 6 of the new set, brings the original work up to date by adding new subjects, revising some major articles, expanding the sections on art, literature, religion. A new index including this material is scheduled for pub­lication in 1962.

WHERRY, Edgar Theodore. The Fern Guide; Northeastern and Midland United States and Adjacent Canada. N. Y: Doubleday, 330p. $3.95
Nicely illustrated descriptions and a glossary of both colloquial and technical terms.

Genealogy, Heraldry, Flags

National flags, and those of international organizations such as the United Nations and NATO, are described and illustrated. The newly independent African states (through the spring of 1961) are included. A revision of earlier works by F. E. Hulme.

QUAIFE, Milo Milton & others. The History of the United States Flag. N. Y: Harper, 182p. $4.95
Covers all aspects of the flag and its importance. An important record of primary source materials. British literature circulated in this country is also listed. A companion volume to the author's definitive study, Antislavery: The Crusade for Freedom in America.
All lines are busy at the reference service desk of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library

The McGRAW-HILL Illustrated World Geography; ed. by Frank Debenham with the assistance of William A. Burns. N. Y: McGraw-Hill, 1960, 519p. $15
Attractive photographs enhance the readable text. Introductory pages define terms and summarize facts often disputed about the highest, biggest, and longest. Useful for both students and adults despite some inadequacies of the index and cross references.

Now extended to cover the inauguration of President Kennedy. New tables, maps, and charts. The bibliographical section of 300 notable Americans has been increased to 400. Indexed.

A quick reference source, compiled by a Russian-born British scholar with the assistance of subject specialists. Contains some 2050 articles, varied in length. Coverage of lesser-known Russians and governmental organizations is good. Only limited treatment is given to the pre-revolutionary period. Frequent cross references, brief bibliographies.

Literature and Language

BERRY, Thomas Elliott. The Most Common Mistakes in English Usage. Philadelphia: Chilton, 146p. $2.95
284 specific errors in spoken and written English are discussed under 18 broad classifications, such as “Commonly Confused Words,” and “Errors in Using Verbs.” Examples of incorrect usage are accompanied by examples and explanation of correct usage. Indexed.

Divided into three parts: criticism of individual authors (specific novels, general studies, and bibliographies); studies of the American novel in general (classified as far as possible by century); and bibliography of sources consulted.

LEWIS, Norman, ed. The New Roget’s Thesaurus of the English Language in Dictionary Form. rev., greatly enl. ed. N. Y: Putnam, 552p. library ed. $4.50; thumb-indexed $4.95; Garden City, N.Y: Garden City Books, $3.50; thumb-indexed $3.95
The first revision since 1936 of C. O. Sylvester Mawson’s alphabetical arrangement of the Roget system of word classification.

By means of symbols, brief information is provided concerning types and quantities of literary manuscripts held in more than 270 academic, historical, and public libraries in the United States. Entries for approximately 2,350 authors are arranged alphabetically. Not intended to be definitive or exhaustive. A valuable aid to librarians and scholars in their search for manuscript materials.

Lists interpretations of 19th and 20th century short fiction. References chiefly to critiques in English
selected from books and magazines of the period 1900 to 1960, inclusive. Arrangements are alphabetical by authors of the short stories, then by titles under each author's name.


Adds 100,000 new words and meanings, using *illustrative quotations* from contemporary sources. However, this edition, unlike its predecessors, has been edited from the viewpoint of descriptive linguistics. Current usages and pronunciations are recorded, but no clear attempt is made to indicate the preferred form. Criticism of this approach has been voiced in a number of reviews. Most libraries will need both the second and third editions. (The price quoted above is for the basic style. Other types of format are available up to $59.50.)

**Music and Drama**


Concise definitions of 3000 theatrical terms in English, used from the middle ages to modern times. Covers primarily the "legitimate" stage; includes also the basic vocabulary of ballet, opera, minstrelsy, puppetry, etc.

**EWEN, David.** *The Lighter Classics in Music.* N. Y: Arco, 370p. $5

Biographies of 187 composers and brief discussions of their works which classify between "pot" and "standard classic," an area generally ignored by writers on music. Indexed by composition titles.

**GROVE'S Dictionary of Music and Musicians; supplementary volume to the 5th ed.; ed. by Eric Blom and Denis Stevens.** N. Y: St. Martin's Press, $15. London: Macmillan, 808 Any librarian who owns the old edition. (The source quoted add this supplement. Corrections and additions are made, many articles re-written, new topics and biographies of present-day performers added.


The past three centuries are emphasized in this quarto volume which contains over 600 black-and-white pictures accompanied by a condensation of Professor Lang's *Music in Western Civilization.*

**LOVELL, John.** *Digests of Great American Plays.* N. Y: Crowell, 452p. $5.95

Chronological arrangement of 102 plays produced from 1766 to 1959, each selected to represent a significant aspect of American drama or to portray a particular element of American life. Act-by-act synopses attempt to capture the style and mood of the play. Analysis and interpretation, data on performances are also given.

**MACHLIS, Joseph.** *Introduction to Contemporary Music.* N. Y: Norton, 714p. $10

Presents, for each of nearly 100 composers, a biography, an essay on his musical style and an analysis of one of his characteristic works. There is an opening discussion of the materials of music, and the appendixes are useful.

**MARTIN, George Whitney.** *The Opera Companion.* N. Y: Dodd, Mead, 715p. $12.50

459 pages of synopses of the standard works, enhanced by a history, a glossary, essays (e.g., "The operatic voice," "Ballet in opera"), Statistics from famous houses, a bibliography and indexes.

**Religion and Philosophy**


This extensive bibliography completes a set of studies which grew out of seminars offered at Princeton. Books, articles, essays, and theses are included, with excellent notes presented in a continuous narrative text, and an author index. The most thorough coverage of the subject in print.

**HILLS, Margaret Thordike, ed.** *The English Bible in America.* N. Y: American Bible Society and the New York Public Library, 477p. $13.50

"A bibliography of editions of the Bible and the New Testament published in America, 1777-1957" (subtitle). Arrangement is chronological, with very full annotations for important or unusual items. Locations are given. Six separate indexes offer approaches by place, publisher, translator, editor, title, and general subject.


Two hundred classic works digested. Each is introduced by a statement of "principal ideas advanced" and brief information about the writer. Author and title indexes and a glossary.


All factual material has been re-checked and brought up to date. Recent mergers of several leading denominations are noted. An objective, reliable compendium.

**The NEW English Bible: New Testament.** London; N.Y: Oxford and Cambridge University Presses, 447p. $4.95; library ed. 21s; popular ed. 432p., 8s 6d

Translated under the supervision of a Joint Committee representing the major Protestant churches of the British Isles, this is a new rendering of the Greek texts into contemporary English. The Old Testament and the Apocrypha will follow.

**Science and Technology**


Revised to conform with the 1959 National Electrical Code, and other recent developments in the electrical industry, this work has continued to grow larger through many editions. Planned for the practical man with limited mathematical and science background, rather than the engineer.

Over 100 pages of splendid photography and diagrams present an alphabetically arranged astronomical dictionary intended for general use. Entries are short but very clearly written.

GRAY, Peter, ed. *The Encyclopedia of the Biological Sciences*. N. Y.: Reinhold, 1139p. $20

No other comparable work is available covering the major areas and concepts of the biological sciences. Written for nonspecialists or for specialists wanting information outside their own fields. Covers a wide variety of topics clearly and comprehensively. Useful bibliographies, biographical sketches, illustrations, and charts.


A compilation of the latest data on 55 metals, giving chemical and physical properties, industrial processes, and production statistics. A succinct but readable discussion of the principal varieties of fishes, their biology, life history, and activities, with emphasis on physical characteristics. Systematic but readable discussion of the principal varieties of fishes, their biology, life history, and activities, with emphasis on physical characteristics. Systematically arranged.


A systematic but readable discussion of the principal varieties of fishes, their biology, life history, and food importance. Accompanied by 145 excellent colored illustrations and many more in black-and-white. One of Doubleday’s World of Nature series. Another equally well-done work in this series, also appearing in 1961, is Doris M. Conran’s *Living Amphibians of the World* ($12.50).


Explains what records a technical man should keep to protect his inventive ideas and inventions. Couched in nonlegal language; a helpful supplement to the pamphlets from the U.S. Patent Office.

SCOTT, Peter Markham. *A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World*; rev. ed. N. Y: Scribner, 91p. $3.50

Small, colored pictures show clearly how to differentiate various species by size, body shape, bill shape, color of bird, color of bill, voice, and behavior. Systematically arranged.


A detailed guide for the prospector and “rock hound” covering tools, collecting methods, camping equipment, mineral localities, preparing and marketing specimens. Many valuable suggestions.

Science and Technology — Dictionaries and Directories


This standard work has undergone considerable expansion and up-dating. Very helpful for general coverage of industrial chemicals and trade-named products. Properties, sources, uses, shipping regulations, etc., are included. Former editorial director, Francis M. Turner.


Great advances during the last 10 years in aeronautics, space science, and missile technology are clearly recognized in a completely revised work, which includes over 10,000 brief, technical definitions and many fine illustrations.


A small illustrated volume packed with information on military and civil aircraft of the world. Terminology, inventories, and records are given. Should be particularly helpful for libraries which cannot afford Jane’s *All the World’s Aircraft*.


Necessitated by the rapid changes in these fields, this edition shows considerable revision and improvement. The wording is quite technical but clear. A multi-lingual index in French, German, Spanish, and Russian has been added.


Expanded and revised edition of a standard directory; has separate sections for the U.S. and Canada, each arranged alphabetically by society. A subject index is included. A companion work, also revised in 1961, is *Industrial Research Laboratories in the United States*, 11th ed., 696p. $12

U. S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. *Specialized Science Information Services in the United States*. Washington: G.P.O., 528p. pap. $1.75

Brief descriptions of 427 organizations in the physical and biological sciences. Includes a wide variety of societies, industrial and government research establishments, special libraries, and institutes. Organizations are arranged in 25 categories; for each is given scope, qualifications required of users, collections, services, and publications. Detailed index.

Sports


Definitions of terms, text of regulations, biographies of persons (and even of bulls), and innumerable pictures form a treasure trove for English-speaking admirers of the Spanish sport.


Brief outline of automobile racing, arranged by country, followed by an extensive list of 406 European and American sports cars built between 1903 and 1961, arranged alphabetically, and giving detailed specifications. A section of famous international races, records through 1961, and many illustrations are also included.
An authoritative compilation of "official rules for 38 sports and games" (subtitle). Gives layouts of courts, fields, etc., and sources for information about sports which are omitted.

General Reference — Guides and Directories


ASH, Lee, comp. Subject Collections. 2d ed. rev. and enl. N.Y: Bowker, 651p. $17
Reports special book collections and subject emphases of college, university, public, and special libraries in the United States and Canada. More than 3,000 new entries and about 800 new subjects. As in the older edition, arrangement is alphabetical by subject. Information was again collected by means of questionnaires.

BARDEN, Bertha R., & DENISON, Barbara. Guide to the SLA Loan Collection of Classification Schemes and Subject Heading Lists on Deposit at Western Reserve University as of March 20, 1961, 5th ed. N.Y: Special Libraries Association, 97p. $4
Lists almost 800 classification and subject heading schemes which have been developed by special librarians for their individual needs. The collection ranges from elaborate, carefully organized schemes for large or highly technical areas to quite simple and elementary plans for very narrow specialties. All are available on interlibrary loan. Many librarians faced with the organization of materials in fields not satisfactorily covered by more general tools may find guidance here.

First published in 1936 under the title Encyclopedia of American Associations. Since the 2nd edition (1959) nearly 2600 organizations have been added, making the present total over 11,000. The separate volume indexing associations geographically and by names of executive is new. Despite some inaccuracies and omissions, this is a useful compilation of information hard to find elsewhere.

GUIDE to Microforms in Print. Washington: Microcard Editions, 72p. $4
Microform publications available for purchase from 41 sources are entered in one alphabet. Abbreviations and symbols are used to indicate sources, forms, and prices. Included are books, journals, newspapers, archival materials, and projects (e.g., microform publication of all the works cited in a bibliography). Theses and dissertations are omitted.

HEALTH Organizations of the United States and Canada: national, regional and state; ed. by Clara S. Wasserman and Paul Wasserman. Ithaca, N.Y: Cornell University Graduate School of Business and Public Administration, 191p. $10
A directory of unofficial and voluntary organizations. For each group there is a statement of purpose, membership, fees, meetings, publications, etc. Part 1 covers U. S. and Canadian national, and regional agencies; part 2 gives those at state level; part 3 is a classified list by subject.

Information about more than 4,500 institutions, including not only art, natural history, and scientific museums, but also historic houses, historical society museums, botanical and zoological gardens, arborets, planetariums, aquariums, and others. Outlines concisely such facts as name, date of establishment, name of the director, major collections and special holdings, activities and services. Detailed subject index.

Intended as an aid to the acquisition and utilization of the rapidly expanding volume of government publications, this revision brings the 1939 edition up to date. Two new chapters, one on government periodicals and one which gives sources of microfilm and microfiche copies, have been added. A list of depository libraries as of August 1, 1960 is included.

This bibliography of city directories, which also serves as a union list, consists of 1,647 entries arranged by city. Within each city the arrangement is chronological. Entries include titles, publication dates, publishers, pagination, illustrators, advertisements, and locations of copies.

Gives a general description of the holdings of some 1,300 depository libraries in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone. While not intended to be a union catalog or a complete record of all documents in all depositories, it does provide extensive coverage which will serve as a valuable aid to research workers. Entries are alphabetically arranged, first by state, then by cities within the state. Printed guides to collections, including periodical articles as well as individually published works, are noted. A 132-page index organizes the material by names, organizations, and subjects.

An annotated bibliography of 668 active titles in the humanities and social sciences. Provides approaches by country, subject, and chronological period. Has a title index. Brief information is also given about 117 periodicals whose current status is uncertain.

**General Reference — Miscellaneous**


In this useful compilation, the 99 reviews of subscription and other reference books published in The Booklist and Subscription Books Bulletin from September 1, 1956, through July 15, 1960, are arranged alphabetically by title.


Continues to be a convenient tool, giving clear and precise explanations of terms the bookman needs in his own and related fields. Expanded to cover new developments since the last edition (1951), and additional material in some areas. The number of foreign languages included is reduced in favor of wider selection within each language.


Discusses 88 rare American books, and has a representative price index to valuable books and pamphlets of the New World. Should prove helpful in dealing with patrons who bring in old books for identification and appraisal. Supplements Gold in Your Attic (1958).

**CUTLER, Carl C. Queens of the Western Ocean.** Annapolis: U.S. Naval Institute, 672p. $12.50

"The story of America's mail and passenger sailing lines" (subtitle). 200 pages of appendices register all the transatlantic and approximately half of the coastal lines — their vessels, masters, operators, and records made or lost. Indexed by names of ships.


Describes and illustrates liners (of over 6,000 tons gross) in service today, from all countries. Gives sizes, capacity, routes, types of accommodations, etc. Appendices and indexes list shipping companies, shipbuilders, and ship names.

**FENNER, Kaye Toy. American Catholic Etiquette.** Westminster, Md: Newman Press, 402p. $5.95

Catholics will welcome this as the most comprehensive guide to social life available. Others who entertain Catholic friends or who must occasionally attend Catholic ceremonies will find many sections helpful. A delightfully written supplement to Post and Vanderbilt.

**MONTAGNE, Prosper. Larousse Gastronomique; the encyclopedia of food, wine & cookery.** ed. by Charlotte Turgeon and Nina Froud. N.Y: Crown, 1101p. $20

$500 recipes from many countries, with, of course, a strong emphasis on the French, are arranged alphabetically together with information on food combinations and wines. Illustrated richly in black-and-white, and in color.

**MOORE, Alma Chesinut. How to Clean Everything; an encyclopedia of what to use and how to use it.** rev. ed. N.Y: Simon & Schuster, 203p. $3.75

A most handy reference aid to be kept near the library telephone desk; simply arranged for finding quick answers.

**TAYLOR, Norman Burke, & others. The Putnam Medical Dictionary.** N.Y: Putnam, 933p. $4.95

Definitions are phrased in easily understood language. Contains many useful anatomical tables and illustrations. A source of practical general information for libraries with limited budgets.

It takes nearly 800 readers to fill all the seats in this gigantic Main Reading Room of the New York Public Library. Two hundred and ninety-five feet long, 77 feet wide and 50 feet high, it covers half an acre.
WORLD ATLASES

A listing of the currently available American works recommended “as best suited for library reference use”

By WALTER W. RISTOW

The general quality of world reference atlases published in this country has shown some improvement during the past decade. There is as yet no domestic product, however, that compares with the better European works such as the London Times Atlas, Atlas Mira, Atlante Internazionale of the Touring Club Italiano, Philip’s International, Bartholomew’s Citizen’s, or Agostini’s Grande Atlante Geografico.

In an article published in the November 26, 1961 issue of the New York Herald Tribune’s Books, Richard Edes Harrison gives “Some sound advice for atlas buyers.” In summarizing he notes that “it should be plain . . . that evaluation of atlases for the man without special training is not an easy assignment. Our best advice is to remember that a good atlas is always explicit about its methods and content; beware of the one that tells you how good it is — but gives no tangible clues as to why.”

The atlases here listed are the currently available American works that are recommended as best suited for library reference use.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA INC.


During the past two decades this publication has established itself as one of the more useful library reference atlases published in the United States. Its quality and utility are, however, still inferior to the better European world atlases. The cartography, in recent issues, has been supplied by Rand McNally, and Rand’s Cosmopolitan maps comprise the basic reference series.

Mr. Ristow is Assistant Chief of the Map Division at the Library of Congress


This new, revised edition of the Ambassador has been prepared as one of Hammond’s 60th anniversary publications. It has been enlarged appreciably over the first edition, originally issued in 1954. In contents, scope, and cartography it compares favorably with other American world atlases in this price range.

PRENTICE-HALL INC.


This atlas, published in the United States, was printed in Vienna, Austria by Ed. Hoelzel Geographical Institute. The merged-color shaded relief maps are, therefore, more representative of those in European than in American atlases. In size, content, scope, and price range it more nearly resembles Goode’s World Atlas than any of the other works here described.

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY.

Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. Chicago, Rand McNally & Company. Published annually and available only on a subscription basis, at $55 a year. Size: 15¾ x 21 inches. Double-page maps measure 27¾ x 20½ inches. 500 pages of maps, indexes, and marketing data. Index of 120,000 names.

Its comprehensive listing of United States places, arranged in separate indexes by states, enhances its value for library reference use. The coverage for the rest of the world is weak, and the maps are unattractive and dull.

Published over a number of years as Goode's School Atlas, this is one of the best atlas values available in this country. The 1961 edition was extensively revised. It has a better ratio between maps of the United States and of the rest of the world than any other atlas published in the United States. The main maps are of the physical type. There is also a series of world economic maps. The index of 30,000 names includes latitude and longitude locations, and phonetic pronunciations.


The International replaces Rand McNally's Cosmopolitan Atlas which is currently not available. Unlike the latter, the International is without descriptive text. The maps are comparable with those contained in the Cosmopolitan, and the indexing is likewise similar. Emphasis is on the United States.


This widely-publicized atlas has not fulfilled the promises of its advance notices. Reviews by reputable geographers and cartographers have ranged from mildly non-committal to highly critical. Principal shortcoming is its attempt to be both a first class reference atlas and a descriptive and pictorial geography. It falls somewhat short of both these goals. In libraries it will no doubt be more popular for casual browsing than for general reference use.

A special display of maps and atlases, illustrating various aspects of maps and map making and uses of maps, was arranged in January at the Bloomfield (N.J.) Public Library with the cooperation of C. S. Hammond & Co., Inc., which has just celebrated its 60th anniversary. The Hammond firm also cooperated with a display of historical maps at the New Jersey Historical Society. The picture below demonstrates some of the problems posed for map-makers by the fast-changing African political scene.
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