SINCE 1958, a committee appointed from the membership of the Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association has prepared an annual list of books considered to be outstanding reference tools for use in small and medium-sized public and college libraries. This effort continues that of Dr. Louis Shores' annual checklist of reference books that appeared in Library Journal from 1953 through 1957. A list of 36 titles for 1976 brings the total number of selections to 1,434 during the 19 years of the committee's existence.

A reference book is defined as a work designed specifically to supply ready information in a form which facilitates ease of use. The requirement that the titles be "new" eliminates consideration of revisions of standard works, new volumes of incomplete sets, and annuals (unless the first publication appeared during the year). Also, pamphlets, books mainly local in scope, bibliographies and criticisms of individual authors or their works, foreign language publications, and reference books designed exclusively for children are not considered. These criteria and the emphasis on collections of small and medium-sized libraries means that many excellent titles must be excluded from consideration.

The decrease in the number of reference books of quality that was noted by the committee last year continued. No one currently popular topic was the subject of an inordinate volume of publishing. The only observable trend was in the form of the reference book, with the proliferation of the bibliography and bibliographic series.

The titles chosen for this list have all been examined by two or more committee members and discussed and agreed upon by the entire committee. No attempt was made to create a balanced list. Careful evaluation of each title should be made before considering it to be a suitable purchase for any given library.

Each committee member was assigned a specific subject area of responsibility. Members of the committee then used libraries and bookstores in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania to identify and evaluate the books. Those titles that were not available for evaluation by two committee members but have received good recommendations in the reviewing media will be considered for next

THIS LIST of Outstanding Reference Books of 1976 is dedicated to its former editor, Dr. Carl T. Cox, who died September 1, 1976. Dr. Cox, Professor of Library Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, had been a member of the committee since 1973, and served as Chairman from 1975 until his death. During this time he did much to enhance the operations of the Committee. Dr. Cox received his Master of Arts in library science and a doctorate in education from George Peabody College. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee, he taught at Peabody Library School and the public schools of DeKalb County, Georgia. He was also director of the Teaching Materials Center, State University College, Cortland, New York. Dr. Cox's death is a great personal and professional loss to all of those who knew him.
year's list. Such carry-over is reflected by the three 1975 imprints included in this list.

The following committee members participated in the preparation of this list: Robert Gaines, Documents/Microforms Librarian, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina; Kathryn Ivey, Librarian, Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, Tennessee; Helen Adele Jones, Adult Age Level Specialist, Prince George's County Memorial Library, Oxon Hill, Maryland; Margaret Keele, Reference Coordinator, Oak Park Public Library, Illinois; H. Dale Montieth, Director, Study Unlimited Program, Chicago Public Library; Fred VanAntwerp, Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, State College; Carol White, Librarian, Monroe High School, Albany, Georgia; and serving as Chairman, Lynn Wishart, Interlibrary Relations Coordinator, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

A display of the titles in this list will be located at the Reference and Adult Services Division booth at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Detroit, June 18–21. After the conference, the books will be available for loan to any interested group for exhibits at regional, state, or local meetings. The only cost of this service is payment of transportation charges. For further information, write to the Executive Secretary, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

GENERAL


This is an author and title index to all book reviews appearing in over 1000 periodicals which are indexed by the ten H. W. Wilson periodical indexes. In addition, it includes reviews from many periodicals not indexed by the Wilson indexes such as Boulevard, Choice, Kirkus, New York Times Book Review, Library Journal, and School Library Journal. Part I of each issue cites book reviews under the author's name followed by the title and the date of publication. The citation includes the periodical in which the book was reviewed, the volume, the pagination, the date the review appeared, and the reviewer's name if known. Part II is a listing by title and serves as an index to Part I.

BIOGRAPHY

BIOGRAPHICAL Dictionaries Master Index. 3 vols. Gale. $65/set

To reduce the frustration level of those searching for biographical sketches of current people important to the U.S., the editors offer a computer produced index of 53,000 people and other collected biographies, including nine Marquis publications. Over 725,000 people are indexed by name. A typical entry includes the surname written in boldface, the first name, dates if known, and a source code. There has been no attempt by the editors to standardize either the forms of the biographers' names or the dates, and they are listed exactly as they were in the original source. Thus, any discrepancies in the original source are repeated.


Who's Who . . . describes and evaluates the works of approximately 700 authors. The author's purpose in writing this readable literary guide is that it "act not only as a reference but also as an indication of how many excellent and interesting authors remain unread." The selection of those writers included is admittedly subjective and includes many writers whom the author feels are undeservedly popular. While the majority of writers included are American and British, major foreign writers are also included as are those nonliterary writers such as Jung and Freud whose writings heavily influenced literature. The length of an entry varies from a few lines to a page.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION


The first dictionary of academic philosophy to be published in decades, Lacey's Dictionary is aimed at the "layman or intending student." Although the emphasis upon logic and epistemology reflects current work in American and British philosophy, most major areas of philosophy seem adequately covered. In addition to its function as a dictionary, the value of this work is enhanced by a short bibliography of seminal works which follow many of the entries. There are also full entries for 80 philosophers with brief mention of their major works. Although one wonders why precious space is given to H. H. Price while at the same time omitting Santayana and concepts such as "analogy" and "innate ideas," the publication of such a dictionary was much needed.

YOO, Yushin. Books on Buddhism: an Annotated Subject Guide. 251p. Scarecrow. $10

A complement to the author's Buddhism: a Subject Index to Periodical Articles in English, 1728-1971 (1973), this bibliography arranges 1300 annotated citations under a number of especially useful subject headings, as art, architecture, dance, fiction, juvenile literature, politics and government, relations with other religions, etc. In all, 38 subject categories are used, and all citations are to books in the English language. This comprehensive coverage along with the concise annotations makes this a handy guide to the literature on Buddhism.

GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS


This important addition to the literature of political science contains election returns dating from 1824 for all major political offices and since 1919 for the southern primaries. Starting with a short historical profile of political parties, Presidential nominating conventions, and the electoral college, this monumental work continues through five more sections covering Presidential, gubernatorial, Senate, House, and Southern primary elections respectively. In addition to the returns, each section also contains a brief narrative analysis explaining the origin and development of the election procedures of that office. A lengthy appendix includes a listing of the sessions of Congress and the Presidency.

From left to right: Carol White, Margaret Keele, Kathryn Ivey, Fred VanAntwerp, Lynn Wishart, Helen Adele Jones, H. Dale Montieth, Robert Gaines
This is a useful tool for the quick reference question on brand names of consumer goods ranging from toys. In a single alphabet, over 106,000 trade names and manufacturers are identified, described, and located. There are entries for items now out of production and those, like zipper, that have become generic.


Divided into three sections, this handy reference manual contains a wealth of information to aid the consumer. The first section, "A Trade Name Encyclopedia," offers the consumer's recommended tactics for making complaints. A unique "Consumer Complaint Escalation Ladder" is given for a progressive campaign if one step fails. The second part summarizes the function of consumer agencies in each state and includes their addresses. Also included in this section are the author's comments on the effectiveness of these agencies. All important addresses and toll-free numbers in this section are in bold print for easy use. A third section contains the 50 most common consumer problems with advice on how to solve them.

ETHNIC STUDIES


Due to the broad emphasis of American genealogical research tools upon Anglo-Saxon materials, this is almost a one-of-a-kind type of research background information on German culture, customs, socio-economic structure, and government is provided, along with other material which will be of great value to the researcher unfamiliar with German life and institutions. There is even a dialect section to help with the language variations. Both the index and the bibliographic essay are well constructed and quite helpful. A follow-up volume is planned which will cover all known immigration files in the German archives.

WASSERMAN, Paul. Ethnic Information Sources of the United States. 751p. Gale. $65

This guide to 90 different ethnic groups in the U.S. is, as the subtitle implies, "A Guide to Organizations, Agencies, Foundations, Institutions, Media, Commercial and Trade Bodies, Government Programs, Research Institutes, Libraries and Museums, Religious Organizations, Banking Firms, Retailers, and the like." Bookstores, publishers' representatives, and books, pamphlets, and audiovisuals on specific ethnic groups. While excluding Blacks, Americans and Eskimos, this volume does include many hard-to-locate nationalities such as Estonians, Guatemalans, Icelanders, and Kuwaitis. The ethnic groups covered are arranged in separate sections, each containing the 25 categories of information listed in the subtitle as the information was available.


Listed alphabetically in separate 10,000 living, notable black American men and women, this first edition volume comprises the largest total of biographical entries of high achieving blacks ever published in one volume. Covering fields as arts and sciences, business, law, education, government, and religion, the entries are similar in content to other biographical dictionaries. More comprehensive than the earlier Who's Who in Colored America (7th ed., 1950), this volume also contains separate geographic and occupation indexes.

EDUCATION


A growing interest in proprietary schools makes this book a timely guide. Containing general information about costs, accreditation, recruitment, enrollment, training, and courses, this work tells the interested high school graduate how to find the right school, evaluate it, and finance the tuition. While a circulating copy would be useful, the basic information covered plus six appendices, including a NATTS Director of Accredited Private Trade Schools and a bibliography divided into 15 types of material, combine to make this a very useful reference work for high school and public libraries.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

ILLUSTRATED Women's Almanac: 12 How To Handbooks in One. 624p. Lipincott, $12.90

Divided into 12 major sections dealing with topics ranging from health to business to politics to belly dancing, this almanac contains over 200 individual volumes of potential interest to both males and females. In addition to the concisely written articles, this excellent reference tool includes a yellow pages "Woman's Directory" of over 1300 local and national women's services, resources, and organizations. Running at the bottom of each page, is a chronology of the political, social, and cultural events of women's liberation through history to the present. Indexes provide easy access to the information, and a selective "Suggested Reading" list arranged by authors rounds out this useful guide.


A selective anthology of women's rights material in America dating from the early 19th century, this book is strengthened by the author's introductory statements on each piece. While the suffrage movement appears to be the primary force behind the overall women's rights movement, this work does give attention to other aspects, such as sexual freedom, divorce and marriage, and temperance. Well indexed, illustrated, and with an extensive bibliography, this volume fills a void of some significance.

SPORTS

WEBSTER'S Sports Dictionary. 503p. Merriam. $8.95

As television almost daily brings the sports arenas into the home, the need for a dictionary of this sort increases. Definitions are given for terms in common usage by participants in sports in America as well as other English-speaking countries. To enhance the understanding of the terms, there are numerous excellent illustrations and diagrams. Hunting, fishing, scuba diving, and mountain climbing are covered in addition to the more well-known sports. Useful appendices include a list of sports abbreviations, illustrations of referee's signals, and an explanation of scorekeeping methods for baseball and bowling.

FILMS

THE OXFORD Companion to Film. ed. by Liz-Anne Badawi. 767p. Oxford Univ. Pr. $24.95

Like other Oxford Companions this will be a standard handbook for the serious film buff. It provides the film in all areas of the world. It is a selective in scope and covers films, the film industry, and film techniques and theories, as well as biographies of people connected with the industry.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

ANATOMY of Wonder: Science Fiction. 471p. Bowker. $14.95; pap. $8.95

Issued as part of Bowker's "Bibliographic Guide for Contemporary Collection" series, this critical guide to science fiction is divided into two major sections. Part I consists of four chapters which trace the history of science fiction from the beginning to 1975. In addition, there is a chapter on juvenile science fiction. Extensive and well-annotated bibliographies are included in each chapter, and those titles considered to be basic for a science fiction collection are starred. Part II includes various research aids such as an annotated bibliography of history and criticism of the science fiction genre, literary awards, publishers, and libraries with science fiction/fantasy collections.

ENCYCLOPEDIA of Mystery & Detection. 436p. McGraw. $19.95

Using a broad definition of the mystery genre, the authors have written some 800 articles, largely on mystery writers, but including also articles on famous villains, crooks, and detectives. Cross references lead from the pseudonyms to the authors' real names. The lives of approximately 500 writers are delineated and facts cover their careers, books written, and information about stage.
screen, and television adaptations of their works. A useful checklist of works is appended for many writers. The length of the articles varies from a paragraph to several pages. This book is a useful complement to Who Done It? (1969) and A Catalogue of Crime (1971).

To meet both the increasing interest in Latin American literature and to fill the lack of current critical bibliographies in the field, the editors have selected 157 authors based on their importance to modern Latin American literature. Their aim was not only to present Latin America’s major writers of the 20th Century but also to present some of the best minor writers as well. For each writer, a representative selection of criticism of his works is included. An index of authors arranged by country of origin, an index to critics, and checklists of works mentioned in the text add value to the set. This is part of Ungar’s “Library of Literary Criticism” series.

GARLAND, Henry Burnand. The Oxford Companion to German Literature. 977p.
Oxford. $27.95
Ten years in preparation by experts in German literature, this volume is similar in format to the other Oxford literary companions. It covers in alphabetical sequence, biographies, synopses of literary works, literary movements, historical events, etc. It does not, however, include listings by important literary characters. Coverage is not limited to Germany but includes Austria and Switzerland as well. The time span ranges from the 8th Century to 1974. Entries for works and literary terms are in German; thus, someone knowing only the English form might encounter some difficulty in using the volume. However, the book is strengthened by an extensive use of cross references.

WEBSTER’S Collegiate Thesaurus. 944p. Merriam. $8.95
Its innovations make this thesaurus a unique work. According to the editor, the material is presented “in a readily available and highly structured form that minimizes the consultant’s need to grope and guess.” That form is direct alphabetization. For each main entry, related and contrasted words, idiomatic equivalents, and a note of limited usage are appropriately given, in addition to synonyms and antonyms. The large number of unconventional terms included attests to its appeal to a larger, more informal audience than existing thesauri. This is an essential purchase for all libraries.

WORLD Encyclopedia of Comics. 785p. Chelsea House. $25
This book will be a boon in answering the questions of the growing group of comics enthusiasts. Some 300 pages are devoted to an alphabetical listing of comics artists, writers, and editors along with the comics themselves. Its scope is international. Numerous illustrations, separately indexed, both in color and black and white, show examples of the varying styles of comics artists. A brief history and chronology plus a glossary and bibliography add to its usefulness.

SCIENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL Book of Wood. 276p. S & S. $29.95
This book tells the story of how wood grows, how it is converted to useful timber, and the uses, from matchsticks to violins, to which it is put. Alongside illustrations of the grain of 144 of the most commonly used woods, the description, technical properties, growth patterns, and uses of each are discussed. Historical perspectives and current techniques in using and making wood products are clearly explained.

JOHNSGARD, Paul A. North American Game Birds of Upland and Shoreline. 185p. Univ. of Nebraska Pr. $11.95; pap. $6.95
Better illustrated and more pleasingly printed than most nature guides, this handbook is written by a biologist to help sportsmen, students, and nature lovers identify 29 species of common American game birds. A description of features which make particular species valuable for hunting or viewing and a chart of adult sizes and weights precede the text. Five or six pages are devoted to each species, giving common names, range, identification features, field marks, age and sex criteria, habitat and foods, social behavior, and reproductive biology. Each species is accompanied by at least one black and white drawing and by a detailed map showing current geographical distribution. Three sections of plates include 31 color and 57 black and white photographs of species in their native habitat.

JOHNSON, Warren T. Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs: an Illustrated Practical Guide. 56p. Comstock Publishing Co, Cornell Univ. $5.50
Organized and written so that the layman can locate information about the pests destroying his ornamental trees and shrubs, Johnson’s handbook provides descriptions of more than 700 species of harmful insects common in the United States and Canada. Although most of the information is about the insects, the arrangement is by type of plant serving as host. Two hundred and twelve color plates show clearly the injured plants and the various insects which cause the damage. Opposite each plate is text describing the insects, their reproductive habits, their geographical distribution, and techniques useful in pest control.

Another readable encyclopedia has grown out of the excellent McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology and its Yearbooks. Over 300 signed articles deal with various technical aspects of a topic about which every citizen is becoming increasingly aware. Some 100 of these are either complete revisions or have been written specifically for this volume. Six feature articles discuss the energy perspectives for our industrialized society.

THE PLANET We Live On: Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Earth Sciences. 528p. Abrams. $37.50
The first single-volume compilation of topics in the earth sciences for use by the general reader, this work offers more than 1800 entries in a dictionary format, accompanied by 533 illustrations and 188 diagrams. The text is preceded by a 30-page color portfolio of the earth sciences. Articles are short, contain non-technical language, and provide cross-references to other entries. All entries are signed. Twenty-one earth sciences are defined at the beginning of the book; an appen-
dix lists all entries related to each of these sciences.

ROTHENBERG, Albert. The Index of Scientific Writings on Creativity: General, 1566-1974. 254p. Shoestring. $30

A complement to the author's Index of Scientific Writings on Creativity: Creative Men and Women (1975), this index provides 6500 unannotated citations to books and articles arranged under a number of subject headings. Coverage is worldwide in the natural and social sciences, medicine, and education. Approximately one-third of the entries is devoted to subjects dealing with creativity itself. The remaining entries deal with creativity and psychopathology, fine arts, scientific creativity, creativity in industry and business, etc. Foreign titles are followed by English equivalents; author and subject indexes are provided. The number of citations along with a useful subject arrangement make this work a comprehensive and valuable guide to the literature.

COOKING

FITZGIBBON, Theodora. The Food of the Western World: an Encyclopedia of Food from North America and Europe. 529p. Quadrangle/N.Y. Times Book Co. $25

A recognized authority has written a polyglot dictionary that analyzes the culinary art of 34 Western countries. The historical and geographical information given about foods is not easily found elsewhere. Its alphabetical arrangement means that information is necessarily spread out. and an index has not been provided. Fifty-five hundred recipes are included, but because they are in paragraph format, they are somewhat difficult to follow while in the kitchen.

TUDOR, Nancy. Cooking for Entertaining. 256p. Bowker. $19.95

Listing more than 800 selected books, magazines, pamphlets, and nonprint materials, this volume provides a unique approach to identifying recent works about cooking and entertaining available primarily through American vendors. Items are selected and categorized according to their usefulness and their clarity of instruction, not according to the foods described. Chapters on various types of cooking are subdivided by foods or processes. Each entry gives full bibliographical data, a critical annotation, a count of the number of recipes included, and an evaluation of the level of difficulty of the instructions.

TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY


Approximately 15,000 locations are listed, giving the origin and meaning of the name, the historical importance, and a listing of all other locations in North America with names derived from the entry. Every imaginable type of locality is covered, including cities, counties, towns, hamlets, provinces, parks, islands, gulfs, valleys, forests, and mountains. Traditional dictionary arrangement is utilized, cross references are provided, and a useful bibliography is included. The illustrations are not so numerous to be any real asset, but do add to the general attractiveness of the work. All population centers of 2500 or more are supposedly covered.


The textual material accompanying the 197 high quality maps is quite thorough and almost amounts to an encyclopedia-type entry for each event or topic covered by a map. Additionally, there are nearly as many illustrations as maps, making this work altogether one of the most attractive to be issued in 1976. The scholarship is sound, and the treatment appears fair from a denominational point of view. The index adequately covers both the textual material and the maps. Treatment of the subject is broad both geographically and chronologically, with special emphasis upon the pivotal events, movements, and personalities of Christianity.


Although probably the best general guide currently available, the information presented, or at least a part of it, will be dated in a few years. However, this diminishes neither the current value of this work as a travel guide, nor its lasting value as a well-written

“history” of the city's principal structures. The existence of the less expensive paper edition offers librarians a choice when the budget “belt” is tightened.

HISTORY


The combination of 286 maps, often in multicolor format, an excellent accompanying text, and an index which adequately references both maps and text, makes for a truly impressive reference work. No other atlas currently available does such a thorough job on this period of American history. The coverage is not limited to the military emphasis, which might have been expected, but embraces practically every important aspect of life in the Revolutionary period, including politics, economy, population, religion, even Indian settlements, and the relocation of loyalists.


Any librarian who acquired the Grun volume, Timetables of History, which was on last year's outstanding reference books list, will probably want to acquire this work as well. The two are complementary to an unusual degree, as both provide a year-by-year breakdown of major events and trends, but while the Grun work is clearly oriented toward cultural development, Freeman-Grenville's approach is far more political and geographical. In combination with the Grun volume, this becomes a very powerful reference tool.


Given the resiliency of the subject, this is a volume which most libraries will probably need to acquire. The basic arrangement is three part, with a useful chronology of important events in National Socialist history, the actual dictionary-type encyclopedia section, and an extensive bibliography. A large number of illustrations are provided and usually fall close to the entry concerned. This is a sound reference work on an almost timeless subject.