

Rather, they have concentrated on the German phase of research except in the case of those Germans who arrived in America as soldiers on the British side in the Revolution and elected to remain here. Heavy emphasis is placed on these and most readers will be surprised to know that there were Germans on the patriot side, wearing French uniforms. The compilers are generous with bibliographical references in the German language—they designedly ignore English-language sources on the whole.

The happiest part of the book is contained in the long historical section dealing with the history of the Holy Roman Empire German Nation which ceased to exist early in the nineteenth century. This is excellent. There is also a good treatment of the German language. When, however, we come, as we do quite early in the volume, to the German-speaking churches in America, we find that the compilers give great attention to a federal religious census of 1906. The information derived from it is gone into in the greatest detail. We learn what communions there were in 1906; in what counties each had congregations, but the names of the local churches and their addresses, are not given, nor is anything said about where these invaluable church registers now are deposited. Moreover, the compilers are unaware that one of the two so-called "Reformed" churches has disappeared through merger with other denominations, and the other is a Dutch, not a German derivative. Also most of the Lutheran bodies listed have changed their names in the seventy years since 1906. The compilers say nothing of the so-called "Synod of the West," a Presbyterian body which conducted services in Iowa and several adjacent states in the Bohemian language, and though Bohemian is not German, the European home of these people was part of the aforesaid German Empire.

The volume is beautifully indexed and the documentation is bibliographically excellent, but there are no illustrations, not even in the section on German heraldry, which is limited to telling who had authority to grant arms. No family's arms are described. The arrangement of the material throughout the volume is curious, and the title "Encyclopaedia" is a misnomer. We can urge all genealogical libraries to purchase the work, however, and we hope that this is only the first of many editions, each improving on its predecessor. Even expert genealogists will learn much by studying this volume.

—George E. McCracken  
Drake University

*The Publication of American Historical Manuscripts*, edited by Leslie W. Dunlap and Fred Shelley. Iowa City: The University of Iowa Libraries, 1976. pp. xvii, 107.

This slender, but sturdy, volume presents to the scholarly public eight papers originally delivered by distinguished historians, editors, and bibliographers during a conference held during the spring of 1975. The University of Iowa then served as a host for a meeting of the National Historical Publica-

tions and Records Commission with financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council on Library Resources, and the University of Iowa Foundation.

Each participant presented, in one way or another, methods and suggestions concerning the ever-mounting problems centering about the publication of documents significant to the history of the United States. Emphasis, it is safe to say, was placed upon the role of editors who are obligated to collect, arrange, interpret, and place in useable format mountains of manuscript and printed sources. Yet, as Fred Shelley pointed out, "For documentary editing there was—and is—no plumber's handbook, no mechanics manual, no all-purpose listing of what to do from one to 500 with the guarantee of a perfect edition of the papers of a great figure or event or theme the result of faithful adherence to him or her who follows the rules, immutable and immaculate." (p. xv). Shelley does draw attention to a new pattern which provides for, as he says, comprehensive microfilm publication followed by a selective letterpress edition.

Among those who delivered papers—Albert T. Klyberg, Stanley J. Idzerda, Albert E. Van Dusen, Merrill Jensen, Eric H. Boehm, Donald Jackson, Daniel J. Reed, E. Berkeley Tompkins—two seem somewhat outstanding, although this does not infer or imply that others were uninspiring. Boehm, with his usual professionalism, discussed in detail current emphases in the dissemination of information about manuscripts. His comments, obviously too technical to the layman, should be of benefit to all engaged in bibliographic research or the editing of manuscripts. Reed tackled the baffling and confused problem of the private property claim in presidential papers, stating, for example, that "The bundle of practical compromises and solutions which composed the Presidential library concept might never have been questioned had it not been for the extraordinary events of the administration of Richard Nixon." (p. 80).

Robert A. McCown, *The University Libraries, University of Iowa*, in a capsulated summary, brings the volume to an end. His fair, equal treatment of both formal papers and remarks by commentators provides both balance and insight. Most readers of the *Annals of Iowa* will have slight reason to read this collection of essays, but those who scan this review—which makes no attempt to do more than indicate the general scope of the book—may appreciate a quotation which McCown draws from an apt statement made by Walter Rundell, University of Maryland. Rundell, writes McCown, pointed out the need for erudition, seasoned historical judgment, and a background in the philosophy of history on the part of editors.

—Philip D. Jordan  
Burlington, Iowa

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.