

## Book Notices

*The History of Agricultural Science and Technology: An International Annotated Bibliography*, edited by R. Douglas Hurt and Mary Ellen Hurt. New York: Garland Publishing, 1993. xiii, 485 pp. Index. \$75.00 cloth.

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As part of a series of bibliographies on the history of science and technology, this volume provides a needed service to the researcher. The strength of this bibliography is its international scope, its reliance on scientific rather than historical journals, and its practical and helpful annotations for the 1,380 entries. As the editors stress, it is a starting place for historians. It is not the usual bibliography containing only secondary historical works, as it has scattered primary studies. Particularly helpful are numerous technical references. As far as standard historical sources, many references for agricultural science are cited from *Agricultural History*, but they are not exhaustive, and very few citations are from state historical journals.

Anyone attempting to organize the literature of any field faces the challenging task of defining boundaries and creating meaningful subject headings. Agriculture, science, and particularly technology are all large and diffuse areas of study. Thus, every user of this bibliography will disagree with some aspects of its organization and will wonder why certain topics are where they are, why certain citations are included, and why others are omitted. Generally, however, the editors have developed a clear, logical arrangement. The editors start with several chapters on general references, guides, indexes, abstracts, and bibliographies. Then they organize most of the literature of agricultural science under four main headings: agricultural chemistry, plant science, animal science, and technology. Each of these has numerous subheadings. Smaller chapters cover such topics as women, agronomy, veterinary medicine, biotechnology, the green revolution, nutrition, and agricultural policy. Although readers will find few specific references to Iowa agriculture or the American Midwest, overall this is a valuable aid.

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