mum discussion. Absent are Elsie Clews Parsons, Amy Lowell, Margaret Sanger, and Vida Scudder — and there are others whom one could cite.

In a sense, though, Rochester has chosen too many people. The result is, in this 150 pages of text, that he is reduced to mentioning names and offering bits and pieces of information, much of it biographical, little of it analytical. He is good on Brand Whitlock’s disillusionment and the New Republic’s drift into ardent support of the war, but the latter is hardly necessary in light of the expert analysis Charles Forcey and David Noble have given the magazine and many of the liberals Rochester surveys. Nor is there any reason for a chapter — in such a short book — on Woodrow Wilson’s failures at Versailles. Scholars do not need this sort of “background” chapter.

Given all these criticisms one has to conclude that American Liberal Disillusionment fails in its revision of May and Lasch. It is too bad; there is probably need for such a book.

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Douglas C. McMurtrie: Bibliographer and Historian of Printing.
Compiled by Scott Bruntjen and Melissa L. Young.

With Douglas C. McMurtrie, co-compilers Dr. Bruntjen, executive director of the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center, and Ms Young, librarian and a director at the Defense Documentation Center in Alexandria, Virginia, have performed a valuable service in bringing attention to a man whose name is known to few yet whose activities have given pleasure to a world of bibliophiles and inestimable aid to countless historians. We need only scan the books “wanted” and “for sale” in successive issues of the Antiquarian Bookman to know the interest he has generated and the respect accorded him among professional bookmen.

In this volume, Number 4 in the Great Bibliographers Series, the compilers have done much to introduce him to the uninitiated by assembling a fascinating and carefully chosen compilation of writings both by and about McMurtrie (1888-1944).
The preface, by the compilers, and the first two chapters, by Herbert A. Kellar and Charles F. Heartman, offer succinct and pleasantly informal biographical data, forecasting McMurtrie's lifelong intent by showing him, at the age of thirteen, at Horace Mann School in New York, publishing a Junior Spectator, inspired by Joseph Addison (not, be it said, with school authorization). He was connected at various times with the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men, Columbia University, and, in 1909, the Pittsburgh Typhoid Fever Commission, in all of which positions he directed printing operations, writing much of the material himself. He was a member of many historical associations and societies and edited the bulletin of the Chicago Historical Society. Looking at these early years, we wish more might have been revealed of his work in layout and type-design for Condé Nast Press's Vanity Fair, that most elegant of magazines in the twenties and early thirties, before it was absorbed by the same publisher's Vogue (two such magazines apparently being too rich for Depression blood).

The most important aspects of McMurtrie's career are demonstrated, in his own writings, in the fourteen chapters which follow. One chapter is on the complexities of the "bibliographical puzzle" and his solution; another, the location symbols he devised for the thousands of libraries in the United States. His Manual of Procedure for the American Imprints Inventory, a branch of the WPA's Historical Records Survey, is here printed. This project, which dispatched two thousand untrained workers to gather materials nationwide (coming up with some fifteen million "slips"), made available to researchers much of the information now found in the National Union Catalog, the Checklist of American Imprints, and Pre-1956 Imprints. Here his interest in manuscript and uncatalogued material is evident:

All of my experience highlights the inestimable value of immediacy of record. The broadside or three-page leaflet printed on the spot within two hours or twenty-four hours of the event which it records obviously exceeds in historical authenticity a dozen accounts written in books or transactions ten or twenty years later. There are, regrettably enough, few libraries in the country which have bothered to preserve such material and only one that I know of has catalogued it (p. 64).

A chapter is excerpted from his monumental work, The Book: The Story of Printing and Bookmaking, which has gone into several editions. Another reprints a portion of "The Westward Spread of the Pennsylvania Press" from Volume 2 of his History of Printing in the United States (1936), a worthy descendant of the History of Printing in America prepared by Isaiah Thomas in Worcester, Massa-
chusetts, in 1810. Unfortunately, the other three volumes of McMurtrie's projected history were never completed.

An essay on American display type design with many examples (including several of McMurtrie's) is reproduced, of necessity by photooffset from the original Bodley Head publication. Research on underground newspapers was another McMurtrie interest. To illustrate this, his essay on Joseph Skalda and the Czech silent press ("the first underground newspaper of the present [1944] war") is included.

An article from Printing Art (1921) may sound rather cavalier coming from a mere printing craftsman, but to one who has functioned in all three capacities, writer, editor, and printer, we think it bears quoting:

Theoretically the printer has no responsibility for decision as to punctuation, spelling, and so forth, these being strictly within the role of the author or editor. In actual practice, however, the conscientious printer, in an endeavor to have the final result as accurate as possible, is driven into the editorial realm by the evident carelessness of the average author regarding points of style and consistency (p. 107).

We may even append a personal note here in recalling that a few years ago, before the floodgates opened on pornography, the innocent printer was liable for the impressions that came from his presses. McMurtrie may have unknowingly anticipated that the printer abrogates responsibility at his peril.

The final third of the book is devoted to a McMurtrie bibliography numbering 779 entries, dating from 1910 to a 1971 reprinting, an amazing output from a multitalented man. In fairness to the book's subject, therefore, we cannot overlook two criticisms — an inadequate index and a number of typographical errors — that would have distressed Douglas McMurtrie.

Pittsburgh

STANLEY D. MAYER


For a number of years, Polish-Americans as well as ethnic scholars have been waiting for an authoritative publication concerning the history of Polish immigration and Polish-Americans. Wytrwal, an educator in the Detroit area, has published several books relative to Polish-Americans. In this book he endeavors to write a history of an indefatigable ethnic group which emigrated from Europe many cen-