

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

Regional Bibliography

With the growth in the aggregate number of printed books, the need for specialization in book collection has become increasingly apparent. Librarians are giving serious thought to various methods of coordination, involving a more careful definition of scope and a limitation of field.

A similar need is apparent in bibliographic enterprise. Important national bibliographies have failed of completion because of the difficulties of adequately covering a large field. One need only cite the monumental bibliographies of Evans and Sabin to illustrate the magnitude of an inclusive list of books published in or about America.

Charles Evans' *American Bibliography* was planned to furnish a chronological list of material printed in America down to and including the year 1820. Eighteen years have brought forth eight folio volumes recording more than 25,000 titles and the record has been completed only through the year 1792. The last volume lists the output of but three years. With the increasing number of publications from this date forward, some idea can be formed of the task yet remaining of the author's goal of 1820 is to be reached.

Joseph Sabin undertook, in his *Biblioteca Americana*, to give an alphabetical list of books relating to America down "to the present time". Publication began in 1868 and was suspended in 1892 in the middle of the letter S. Although much effort has been expended toward the completion of this splendid work, nearly thirty years have passed without the addition of a single volume. The task of completion, moreover, is constantly increasing with the accumulation of books printed since the compiler's death.

Future development in America bibliography, lies obviously in subdivision and specialization. Some limitation must be made if important projects are to be financed and completed within reasonable limits of time. In the United States several excellent bibliographies have been made covering single states of the Union. Most of the states, however, are without adequate state bibliographies nor could a series of individual state bibliographies be unreservedly recommended. The amount of duplication in titles and effort would be extreme.

Librarians in the Pacific Northwest have but followed the logic of the situation in preparing a bibliography of the literature of a large area having historical and geographical unity.¹ Most of the fundamental source items for the history of Washington are identical with the source items for the history of Oregon, and many of these same titles would prove just as essential in a bibliography of Idaho, Montana, or British Columbia. The regional bibliography serving adequately each political division therein affords a happy compromise between a laggard national bibliography and a shelf full of state lists each in a large measure duplicating the others. The cooperative method, moreover, which has in this instance been employed, served to hasten the completion of the work and to reduce the expense involved. The usefulness as well as the completeness of the list was augmented by combining the titles from fifteen contributing libraries into one union list, indicating at the same time the location of all copies recorded.

New Items for the Checklist

One result of the recent publication of a *Checklist of Pacific Northwest Americana* has been the bringing to light of additional titles and editions. While new books will be published from time to time, especial interest will attach to the locating and listing of the older and rarer material. Such unregistered items should be reported to the compiler of the *Checklist*.

One such item recently obtained by a contributor is an abridged edition of George Vancouver's *Voyages*, translated into German by M. C. Sprengel and published in 1799, the year after its first appearance in English. This prompt translation illustrates the eager thirst for geographical knowledge in the early years following the French Revolution.

Another more recent title has been added to the list of Pacific Northwest Americana: *The Shenandoah; or, The Last Confederate Cruiser*, by Cornelius E. Hunt, one of her officers. (New York: Carleton, 1867. Pp 273.) This volume recounts the exploits of a confederate expedition designed to destroy the New England whaling fleet off the Northwest Coast of America. The book records the capture of thirty-eight prizes, most of them whaling

¹ *Pacific Northwest Americana*: A checklist of books and pamphlets relating to the history of the Pacific Northwest. Compiled by Charles W. Smith. (New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1921. Pp. 329. \$4.00.)