

BOOK REVIEWS

REFERENCE

All in Order: Information Systems for the Arts, a book designed to help nonprofit arts agencies collect and organize information about arts activities in the United States, has recently been published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and distributed by the Publishing Center for Cultural Resources, 625 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 for \$7.95 each.

Part I defines information systems and helps arts managers determine what information they need and how to obtain it in the most accurate, efficient, and cost effective manner. Part II names and defines items of information and specifies reports to be used by public arts agencies in their information systems. The information systems based on the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange is explained and described. Included are mailing lists and arts resource directory systems.

The Grants Game: How to Get Free Money by Lawrence Lee (San Francisco, Harbor Publishing dist. by G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$12.95) is a sock-it-to-them, crystal clear, easy-to-follow, how-to-do-it book with anecdotes from personal experience of the author and plain talk. The only thing he's left out is the Grantsmanship Center in Los Angeles, but everything else is good solid information.

Art Books 1876-1949 (New York, Bowker, 1981, \$85.00) is one of those fortuitous reference tools that has been long awaited by art librarians, researchers, art historians and general bibliophiles. The book is a complement to *Art Books 1950-1979*, which has already become a basic reference tool.

This book completes more than 100 years of the Library of Congress cataloging of U.S. titles about art and lists some 21,000 books, under 5,000 subject headings, as well as author and title indexes. Included also is a separate directory of 2,600 current special serial publications on all aspects of the fine and applied visual arts, arranged alphabetically by subject.

The only thing missing are museum entries, but a comprehensive, international directory of art and related museums, including listings for their available permanent collection and exhibition catalogs is scheduled for publication in 1982. This is an essential reference tool, one that will be an important addition to any art reference shelf.

Books, their history, art, power, glory, infamy and suffering according to their creators, friends and enemies by Gerald Donaldson (New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1981, \$14.95) is a delightful compendium of the history of the books, its care and feeding, anecdotes, photos of a real bookworm with a formula for curing that problem, statistics, the source of the word *book*, and so much more. For all bibliophiles, bibliolaters (worshippers of books) and bibliobuli (one who reads too much).

The Dictionary of Graphic Images by Philip Thompson and Peter Davenport (New York, St. Martin's Press, \$10.95 paper) examines through more than 1,700 examples, the variety of ways that images with which we are familiar are used and transformed to convey different images in logos, letterheads, signs and designs. The book is a visual dictionary

which serves to broaden the boundaries of visual communication. \$30.00 for the hardcover. An indispensable tool!

Making a Living in the Fine Arts: Advice from the Pros by Curtis W. Casewit (New York, Macmillan, 1981, \$9.95) is both a catalog of success stories and a practical manual for all aspiring artists. Using the triumphs of Larry Bell, Leroy Neiman, James Pinto and Fritz Scholder, as well as successful museum director Henry Hopkins, gallery owner and art dealer Forrest Fenn, avid collector and dealer Ivan Karp, as well as many more, we get a quick how-to-do-it-right success story book. A quick read, a quick bibliography, a lightweight addition to the library shelf.

Contemporary Art Trends: 1960-1980: A Guide to Sources by Doris L. Bell is a sleeper, because it is an important reference tool for the alternative media, a way of finding out information about the new art trends not necessarily covered by subject headings in the Library of Congress classification. Included are mail art, artists' books, performance art, body art, video, funk art, etc. Some subjects take many pages, others only a page, but there is bibliography, especially from foreign sources. Although not complete, since it is almost impossible to research contemporary art comprehensively, this book should be in the hands of every art researcher. Included is an interesting list of contemporary art journals from A to Z and an important bibliography. \$11.00 from Scarecrow Press, 52 Liberty St., P.O. Box 656, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Ada Louise Huxtable: An Annotated Bibliography by Lawrence Wodehouse (New York, Garland Publishing, 1981) lists and annotates 850 *New York Times* pieces signed by Huxtable, who is the first full-time architectural critic to be employed by an American newspaper, and winner of the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism. Also there are pieces that appeared first in other periodicals, and books by the author. About 100 articles about Huxtable from the *Times* and other periodicals are also included.

This is the first in a series of Bibliographies in Architecture and Planning edited by Arnold L. Markowitz. 250 pages, illustrated, \$30.00.

PHOTOGRAPHY

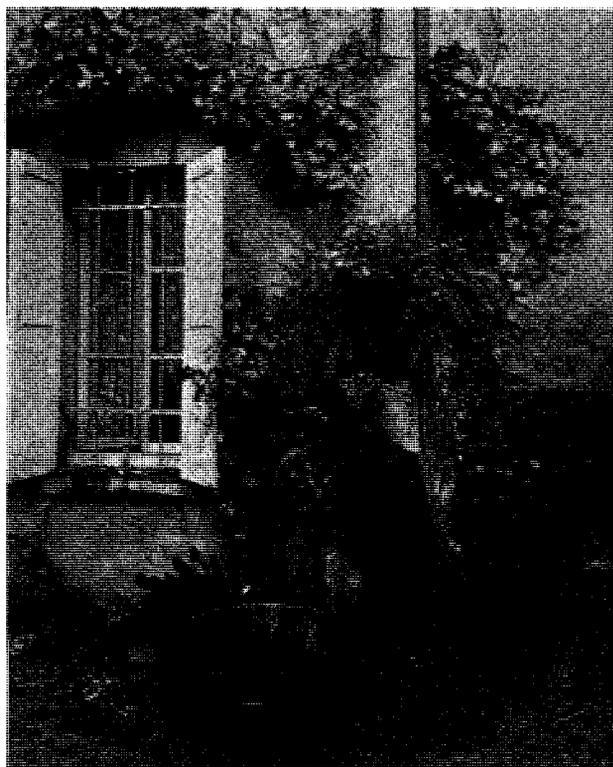
Mirror of the Orient by Roland and Sabrina Michaud (Boston, Little-Brown, 1981, \$39.95) is a beautiful book juxtaposing contemporary color photos from Persia, Turkey, Afghanistan, and all of central Asia with exquisite reproductions of miniatures from collections at the Louvre, National Museum of Delhi, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art in Istanbul, and many other collections. Everything is the same, even though centuries have passed. Whether the reader thinks it is contrived or not, the mirror images of past and present are astounding. The French photographers Roland and Sabrina Michaud have traveled over the past 15 years through remote areas of central Asia and their search for the mirror of the Orient has been well worth it.

Travelers in Ancient Lands: A Portrait of the Middle East, 1839-1919 by Louis Vaczek and Gail Buckland (Boston, Little Brown, \$32.50) with 265 black and white illustra-

tions traces the Middle East from around 1840 to the end of World War I with all kinds of photos of the curious, romantic or calculating eye of 74 photographers, some who tempted the fates in getting their photographs under the most difficult and hazardous conditions. Francis Frith, Felix Bonfils, Lawrence of Arabia, and so many more are documented by Gail Buckland, who adds to the history of photography, while Louis Vaczek writes an illuminating text from first-hand experience in the Middle East. There are biographies of the 74 photographers, a bibliography and an index.

The Work of Atget: Old France (Boston, Little Brown, \$40) by John Szarkowski and Maria Morris Hambourg, is the first of a four-volume series documenting Atget's achievement. The book contains 121 photographs, many of which have never been published. This is a companion volume to a major show of Atget's photographs which opened at Museum of Modern Art in New York City on 3 October.

Here we have the French countryside—fields, gardens, farmhouses, churches and villages. They all come from the Abbott-Levy Collection of the Museum of Modern Art. In the 180 pages, we get 121 plates and 83 reference illustrations all printed in tritone offset. A beautiful book for any photography collection!



Rauschenberg: Photographs by Robert Rauschenberg (Pantheon, \$30) obviously has already irritated photographic purists, but has enlightened those who admire the artist as a painter. For we find out in this book, which also includes an interview with Alain Sayag, that Rauschenberg takes pictures to collect data, much like a journalist. He collects all kinds of information, materials and images wherever he goes. Using the camera in the beginning to hide his shyness, he

now uses the camera to collect data but with the curiosity of a journalist and the trained eye of an artist—all with a sense of humor. Although some of the photos were shot between 1949 and 1965, some are very recent, involving a trip he took from Long Island to Captiva Island, a slow trip of no more than 40 miles a day. Although Rauschenberg never got to photograph America inch by inch, as he had proposed if he were to be a photographer, he has taken a good slice of America and given us some uncanny views. "My works are created to be seen." And this is truly a sleeper.

From My Window by Andre Kertesz (New York, Little Brown, \$24.95) is a treat. At the age of 84 (three years ago), Kertesz began to work with a Polaroid SX-70 and this book is the result.

In the selections in this book, we get romance, sentiment, melancholy, and humor—all with the eye of a true master. There is an introduction and an interview with Peter MacGill. The book is the memory of life with his deceased wife, and the strong and powerful relationship between the two is aptly depicted in these beautiful photographs.

The Autochromes of J. H. Lartigue 1912-1927 (New York, Viking, \$35) presents 30 of the autochromes of this famous photographer-painter from a period when the Lumière brothers' invention had just been in vogue. The soft hues and misty quality of the prints distinguish the technique, but modern technology has helped to bring them back to as much of their pristine state as possible. A conversation with Lartigue indicates the deterioration of many of his images, but also stresses his painterly eye in creating these images. There is a technical discussion by Yves Aubry about the autochromes and the technology involved in making the plates. An interesting chapter in the history of color photography.

St. Louis and the Arch: Photographs by Joel Meyerowitz now comes in a paperback edition, published for \$17.50 by Little Brown (New York Graphic Society). This is a beautiful book, and now available for everyone's pocketbook. A must!

GENERAL

Roland Penrose Scrap Book (1900-1981) is a visual autobiography, a collage of photos and writings which trace a life of a man who has known Picasso, Braque, Miro, Max Ernst, Many Ray, Henry Moore, Sandy Calder, Francis Bacon and many other contemporary artists. His absorption with these artists has rubbed off—and the scrapbook has the joy and visual energy that can only come from the confrontation with such art. Evocative and provocative, anecdotal and historical, this scrapbook is a history of a man, a time, and a period of great energy in the fine arts. To have made that history, and to make this book public for all to appreciate is a major contribution. In the 300 pages, we have 692 illustrations with 52 in joyful color. \$35.00 is a minimal cost for this maximal experience. Published by Rizzoli.

Contemporary American Realism since 1960 by Frank H. Goodyear, Jr. is the catalog of the exhibition which opened at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and will travel.

This being the first comprehensive study of this phenomenon, it represents the complexities generated by the diversity and the broad scope of works by more than 100 artists.

With 59 color and 150 black and white illustrations, the book is a panorama of "realism" and is provocative because of the inclusions, going from Philip Pearlstein to Duane Hanson, William Bailey to Alex Katz. Published by the New York Graphic Society in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. \$32.50

Saint Francis of Assisi with photographs by Dennis Stock and text by Lawrence Cunningham (Harper & Row, \$15.50) is a celebration of the life of the founder of the Franciscan order in the 800th anniversary of the birth of the saint. Here we have Stock's beautiful photos of contemporary Assisi, juxtaposed with the wondrous frescoes of the scenes from the life of the saint, painted in the first centuries after his death in 1226. Although it seems odd to review this book as a religious history, the influence of the saint on the art of the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries—and even today—cannot be neglected. Stock's photographs are sumptuous, capturing the pastoral setting of the birthplace and final resting place of the patron saint of Italy, and in fact, the patron saint of ecology as well.

Texas Boots with text by Sharon DeLano and David Rieff and photographs by Star Black is a wild and wonderful celebration of that all-American Texas boot with featured bootmakers Tony Lama, Justin Boot Co., Larry Mahan, Henry Leopold, Charlie Dunn, Alan Bell and the Lucchese Boot Company, among so many more. Close-up shots in living color of these intricate boots will make you want to discuss the history of cowboy boots and see them almost as fetishes. At any rate, the book is finely designed by Gael Towey Dillon, with an introduction by Stanley Marcus of Neiman-Marcus fame. \$12.95 with tongue in boot or in cheek—published by Penguin.

New Studies in Dada, edited by Richard Sheppard, is an important new collection of essays by Dada scholars, including primary documents which appear here in print for the first time.

Essays are by Karin Fullner, Martin Kane, Rudolph Kuenzli, Rex Last and Marian Male, Philip Mann and Richard Sheppard. The original documents include work from Raoul Hausmann, Hans Richter, Johannes Baader and four unpublished or partially published Dada Manifestos from 1916 - 1920. A comprehensive chronology of Dada is also included. This is a very important addition to the body of Dada literature, one furthered by Dr. Richard Sheppard of the University of East Anglia.

To order the book, write to Hutton Press Ltd., 16 Howl Lane, Hutton, Driffield, YO25 9QA, England for £49.50.

Art and the Question of Meaning by Hans Kung (New York, Crossroad/Continuum, 1981) faces the question of meaning and inherited tradition, the judgment of contemporary art as meaningless and arbitrary. Kung, the Swiss theologian, shows in a scholarly, historical way how in an age where meaninglessness seems to be at the forefront, contemporary art shows the way to greater meaning, overcoming the one-dimensionality of ordinary daily existence with its symbols, colors,

shapes and forms. In its 71 pages, it holds a great deal of food for thought, a stimulus for more intelligent discussion of the subject. \$7.95

REPRINTS

Marcel Duchamp by Octavio Paz has now come out in paperback (Seaver Books dist. by Grove Press, \$6.95). There is a complete chronology as part of Paz' personal assessment of Duchamp's thought and work.

REFERENCE WORKS

Poesie Sonore Internationale by Henri Chopin has been published by Jean-Michel Place, Editeur, in Paris. It is an encyclopedic tome about sound poetry, with a chronology, a panorama of sound poetry before 1950, with ultra-lettrisme, then electronic poetry highlighted by Heidsieck, Dufrene, de Vree, Chopin, Burroughs, Novak, then the years 1960-69 country by country, then 1970 and the encounters between poetry and music emphasizing individual artists in this field, and ending with poets and composers. There is a bibliography, a discography and an index of names. A most remarkable book, in French, except for the History of Recorded Sound by Hugh Davies and other documentation that was in English in the original. 125 francs from Jean-Michel Place Editeur, 12 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, 75005 Paris.

Books by Artists including essays by Tim Guest and Germano Celant has recently been published by Art Metropole in Toronto. Edited by Tim Guest of the staff of Art Metropole, we read again Germano Celant's essay on "Books by Artists 1960-72" which has been widely circulated, although this is a "new" translation. The book, in a series of books which tantalize but never go too deeply about new media, such as *Video by Artists*, *Performance by Artists*, now surveys the books made by artists, an introduction to the genre of artists' books. Printed on a grainy paper, the half-tones are not very distinctive, often dissolving into gray rather than being highly contrasted, and the proofreading needs to be improved. Yet these are minor defects, for any book that forwards the cause of bookworks by artists should be appreciated, since there are so few. The book has a good introduction by Guest, with 50 international contemporary artists being featured. The cover, designed by Michael Snow, looks like Marian, the Librarian—from 1886, and the book serves as a catalog for a major touring exhibition of artists' books from the collection of Art Metropole that will circulate throughout Canada until 30 October 1982. The book costs \$12.00 Canadian from Art Metropole, 217 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Canada M5V 1W2 or at your friendly artists' bookshop.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!