

Guide to Business History Materials for the Study of American Business History and Suggestions for Their Use. By Henrietta M. Larson. Index by Elsie Hight Bishop. *Harvard Studies in Business History*, XII. Edited by N. S. B. Gras. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1948; second printing, 1950, pp. xxvi, 1181. \$12.00.)

The second printing of Miss Larson's *Guide*, an expensive book, in the second year of publication emphasizes the importance of business history and increases our concern about the place which Indiana materials hold in it.

It seems that the development of American business history as specially defined by Miss Larson (pp. 3-6)—administration and operation in the past—was overdue a quarter century ago. About 1925, Wallace B. Donham, dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, 1919-1942, undertook to promote it; and Professor N. S. B. Gras of Minnesota, a former student of Wallace's predecessor, Edwin F. Gay, accepted the new Straus Professorship of Business History at Harvard. Leading businessmen and institutions of learning have given generous support. Since American business history covers Small Business as well as Big Business, we may expect it to become a popular, practical part of education and training. For older, conventional economic, social, political, and diplomatic history, this development may be termed, with no pun intended, a "grass roots" movement.

Patriotic Indianans will encounter the index with mixed emotions, if they do not first get acquainted with the book by reading the introductory material by Professor Gras and Miss Larson. For the index was designed for a guide, not for a bibliography, and should be worked several ways. Of course it is not perfect. Under "Indiana" one sees subheads—automotive industry, banking, capitalists "industrial" and "petty," and limestone. "Drug industry" yields only two references, one being R. C. Clark's *Eli Lilly and Company, 1876-1946* described in the text as "Better than the average run of anniversary volumes. Emphasizes executives and product and gives some indication of policy and personnel and sales management." There are intriguing and suggestive subheads under "Drug trade retail" and "Drug trade, wholesale." Under "Furniture," "Hardware," and "Steam-

ships" there are no references distinctly Indianan. Under "Machinery," which is too general, there is no reference, say, to Oliver Chilled Plow Works; under "Oliver, James," there are two references, with specific comment on one. Entries, with comments, of A. R. Erskine's *History of the Studebaker Corporation* (1924), Logan Esarey's "State Banking in Indiana, 1814-1873" (1912), and J. A. Batchelor's *Economic History of the Indiana Oolitic Limestone Industry* (1944) are included. Though the reader knows that references in the *Guide* are a "selection" peculiar to the Gras School, he is perhaps dissatisfied with the showing of his own Hoosier Indiana: Not enough; should be more.

There are illuminating references under the headings "Business records," collection, control and preservation; "Business research"; and "Manuscript collections." One might now add, "Records management," on which a considerable literature has sprung up since 1948. Though there has been severe damage done by indiscriminate destruction and loss of our business manuscripts and records, many still can be found, as one may see in current Indiana University announcements regarding the papers and records of The Howard Shipyards, Jeffersonville, and of The Cannelton (Indiana) Cotton Mill, now The Stonewall Mill of Bemis Bro. Bag Company. In each case these collections span a century.

Indiana University

Thomas P. Martin

Max Ehrmann: A Poet's Life. By Bertha K. Ehrmann. (Boston: Bruce Humphries, Inc., 1951, pp. 119. \$2.50.)

It would be my guess that Max Ehrmann's name is not widely recognized by most readers outside the boundaries of Indiana, perhaps not even by many readers outside the confines of his native community, Terre Haute. Ehrmann's work included poetry, philosophical prose, and closet drama, all of varying length and pretension. He was a minor poet and philosopher of ability who made a deep impression upon a few very respectable critics through his sincerity, his thoughtfulness, and his abiding will to express to his fellowmen the product of that thoughtfulness. When he died in 1945, Ehrmann had completed a half-century of post-collegiate writing activity. The majority of this writing, par-