larger point, to show that Johnson has provided a basis for many Ph. D. dissertations and to show whence derives that immense cultural and literary appeal. Some of this appeal used to come from an appreciation of the figure whom Boswell manufactured. More recently, that magnetism has come from a closer appreciation of Johnson's works. And now, too, thanks to Alvin Kernan's knowledge of the history of the book, some of Johnson's appeal will come from our ability to see him in his own print culture.

PAUL J. KORSHIN

(Paul J. Korshin is Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. Among his many books is Johnson After Two Hundred Years [University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986].)


These attractive, uncluttered pages list Twain-related holdings of the Hartford home where the Clemens family lived for twenty years, and in the Stowe-Day research library next door. The annotated lists and hundreds of illustrations will be useful and a joy to the collector.

It is easy to cavil at the title and plan of the book, which makes no mention of the extensive non-Twain holdings in the Stowe-Day, or of the letters and other writings by Twain's wife and daughters; neither is there a list of the photographs, manuscripts, and documents in the two collections. At least a hundred pages could have been made available for such holdings, which bear closely on Twain's life and works, by being more selective in the inclusion of familiar and unimportant editions published after Twain's death. Some readers may ask why two major but incomplete collections were covered in such detail when other, equally important, materials could be found in smaller collections in Hartford, in profusion at Yale, and conveniently accessible elsewhere in the East. McBride has given us much about Mark Twain, but with a different plan of selection there would have been room for still more of genuine importance.

To insist too rigorously on such objections is to overlook the usefulness of this book and the pleasure it will bring. Half of the works by Mark Twain in Jacob Blanck's monumental Bibliography of American Literature are listed here, with BAL numbers and pictures of covers and title pages. For the sake of completeness, the other BAL primary works, not in the two Hartford collections, are given on pp. 462-7, with very brief descriptions; few are of major significance. On pp. 92-113 McBride discusses the first-issue points of Huckleberry Finn, drawing on the available scholarship on the subject and citing fifteen copies of the American first edition in the Hartford collections and one of the first Canadian edition [Montreal: Dawson Brothers, 1885], which helps establish the priority of the first New York edition. McBride's book makes a useful supplement to BAL in this and other ways, and for
most of us must substitute for the responsibility and cost of serious Twain collecting. It's a good substitute, with its hundreds of illustrations of books by Mark Twain. Of these, sixteen are in handsome colour, fourteen of them showing important first editions; the other two seem rather wasted on the 1916 Mysterious Stranger (which has been denounced as 'an editorial fraud') and 1915 and 1917 printings of the ordinary and still common Author's National Edition of Twain's work.

The first and largest section (361 pp.), 'Books by Mark Twain,' lists first editions and other editions published during his lifetime, and hundreds published since his death (though there were thousands not in the Hartford collections). These latter vary in importance: some are posthumous first publications, and about one hundred volumes in familiar collected editions. There are many very ordinary editions listed, including school and drugstore paperbacks (a very few of which are interesting for their introductions by major authors). These, and several hundred foreign translations (working from other bibliographies rather than direct observation, Robert M. Rodney lists 5,000 in Mark Twain International), help underscore Twain's enduring popularity.

There are about seventy copies of Canadian editions of Twain's works in the Hartford collections. Among them are pirated ones which enraged Twain and stirred him to new efforts in juggling publication dates in America and abroad to protect his copyrights. A particularly sore point was the sale of unauthorized Canadian editions in the United States, in competition with those on which he received royalties. There are illustrations of the covers of some of these Canadian editions, including the 1879 publication of Tom Sawyer by Rose-Belford (Toronto) in fragile paper covers, in 'The Rose Library.'

The second section lists over 300 'Letters by Mark Twain,' including a few documents and autographs. In addition to recipient, date, place, and length, there are summaries prepared by Diana Royce, Chief Librarian of the Stowe-Day Foundation Library; sometimes a particularly good turn of phrase is quoted, and ten pages of letters or parts of letters are reproduced in facsimile. Late in 1984, the year of publication, the Cyril Clemens Collection was added too late for McBride to mention. In that collection were more than 200 letters from Mark Twain, and letters from his wife and daughters. In 1986 Paul Machlis published a far more comprehensive Union Catalog of Clemens Letters (Berkeley), listing almost 10,000 letters by Twain and his family, with present locations of the letters.

The third and fourth sections, 'Contributions by Mark Twain to Collections and Anthologies' and 'Ephemeral Material by and about Mark Twain,' though brief, will be of interest to the collector and scholar, perhaps especially for illustrations which include the page of the 1 May 1852 issue of The Carpet-Bag containing 'The Dandy Frightening the Squatter,' covers of some scarce books and pamphlets, the printed broadside of Twain's address delivered to Czar Alexander II at Yalta in 1867, and his patent for adjustable garment straps.

The section of 'Biographical & Critical Books about Mark Twain' is moderately short (pp. 427-60) and is only a small sampling of what has been published about him. A few of these are relatively scarce, so it is good to see them briefly described and their covers or dust-jackets reproduced.
Throughout, the volume is wonderfully illustrated, with pictures of books by and about Twain, facsimiles of his letters, and some seventy pictures of Twain himself; of these, about half are relatively unfamiliar or previously unpublished. The illustrations help account for the high price of the book, and they justify it. McBride has gone off the usual path to give us a book whose scope may raise objections from some Twainers, but all of us will find a great deal of value, interest, and pleasure in it as well.

THOMAS A. TENNEY
(Thomas A. Tenney is a member of the English Department at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina [Charleston, SC]. He is author of Mark Twain: A Reference Guide [Boston: G.K. Hall, 1977] and editor of the Mark Twain Journal.)


This book is a study of the Irish and Irish-American reprint trade between 1750 and 1820. A portion of the work investigates reprints of eight major eighteenth-century 'literary' authors, selected because their works appear in Irish editions in 203 private libraries in Ireland. There are, however, frequent discussions of original material, such as magazines and newspapers issued by the booksellers of the reprint trade.

Cole's main interest is the publishing history of the 101 booksellers with hands in both Irish and American reprint businesses. He is often able to give edition counts, contemporary reviews, the number of times a work was borrowed from a circulating library, and to note a book's presence in Dumfries, Virginia on 2 January 1796. The details surrounding the publishing efforts of these Irish and Irish-American booksellers is truly impressive.

Cole uses such detail to show that Irishmen ignored original works in order to reprint London editions. Because the booksellers paid no copyright fees to the authors, the editions were frequently half the cost of the London originals. The cheaper editions sold well in Ireland, less well in England because of laws set up to quell them, and very well in America. When the English suppressed Irish reprints with importation laws and eventually by union to form the United Kingdom, the Irish book trade simply moved to America. This was bad for Ireland, but good for the new United States. The English did not realize that the reprint business, far from causing them harm, was a powerful aid because the authors were made better known, and this publicity must naturally have spurred the sale of the more expensive London editions.

One senses Cole's detective work - the love of the hunt, the glory of the discovery of that tiny shop in Dumfries, Virginia. One senses Cole's respect for these booksellers, who far from seeing themselves as pirates, rather stood proud as patriots, fostering the book trade first in Ireland, and later in the United States. Beneath all this