to the United States from Ireland in 1843 and settled in New York. Allen has found books with stamps signed by him as early as 1842: an edition of Shakespeare with at least one stamp designed after a painting of Fuseli. Feely’s work is frequently signed (with his surname or initials), a fact which made the task of identifying his work rather easier than is the case with many other nineteenth-century engravers of stamps. He also used a characteristic squiggle for backgrounds sufficiently often, as Allen points out, to make it a trademark useful in assigning unsigned cuts. She has found 269 books with his stamps, of which approximately 40% are signed.

Feely was a highly accomplished workman; but further than that, his artistic skills were equally developed. The detail of his stamps is very finely executed; and even in the small scale in which perforce he worked he was able to give character to faces and to give an overall individuality to his designs unusual in a normally quite anonymous, generic kind of craft.

Together, these two papers advance considerably our knowledge of nineteenth-century cloth binding history. The colour illustrations are remarkably fine. Indeed so good are they that when I went to look at my library’s copy of Richard Le Gallienne’s Prose Fancies (one of Frank Hazen’s outstanding binding designs), I was a little disappointed to discover that the photograph is more beautiful than the book itself. Both authors provide working lists of bindings designed by their subjects; and although these lists are provisional, they are a highly useful starting-point for further work on Feely, Whitman, and Hazen.

BRUCE WHITEMAN

McGill University Libraries


This publication, the nineteenth in the useful series, AMS Studies in the Eighteenth Century, gathers seventeen essays on writing, printing, publishing, and distributing books in the eighteenth century in Britain. The essays are written by a group of scholars who are able to shed some light on several aspects of the trade. It is not possible to cover all the ‘ins’ and ‘outs’ of the book trade in one volume, but the selection of essays presented here provides much interesting and valuable knowledge and new information for the student and scholar.

The collection has been prepared to honour William B. Todd, the American scholar whose career has been spent in bibliographical studies, many dealing with publications of the eighteenth century, and who has earned, to quote the editor, epithets such as ‘the Murat of contemporary bibliography’ and ‘inspector-general for all bibliographical heresies.’ This is not the first festschrift to honour Todd, a librarian-scholar long associated with the University of Texas at Austin (since
1958) and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. The extent of his publications, 283 books, articles and reviews according to a 1990 census, is overwhelming. Although Todd’s work spans the history of printing from the Gutenberg Bible to the Nixon White House transcripts, he is possibly best known for his studies of the eighteenth-century book. His achievements in eighteenth-century studies began with his dissertation at the University of Chicago, ‘Procedures for Determining the Identity and Order of Certain Eighteenth-Century Editions.’ Todd established the basic importance of press figures [which to that point had been considered unimportant], and he was able to use them to reveal in detail the organization of various printing houses.

Several of the essays presented here are directly reliant on Todd’s earlier research, while others further illumine the field in which he has had so much influence and interest. The essayists are known to most scholars studying the history of the book in the eighteenth century: James Raven, C.J. Mitchell, Patricia Hernlund, B.J. McMullin, Thomas G. Tanselle, Nicolas Barker, J.D. Fleeman, David Vander Meulen, Donald Eddy, Beverley Schneller, K.I.D. Maslen, Jan Fergus, Ruth Portner, Hugh Amory, John Hordern, Betty Rizzo, Thomas Adams, and the editor O.M. Brack, Jr. The authors discuss booksellers who wrote their autobiographies and why these were written [Raven], the causes of bankruptcies in the London book trade at mid-century [Hernlund], a year in the business of Mary Cooper, a London bookseller [Schneller], unauthorized editions of Pope [Vander Meulen], and women in the eighteenth-century book trade [Mitchell]. Among the articles following from Todd’s work on press figures are further observations and interpretations of press figures [McMullin] and a study of press figures in America at the shop of Thomas Dobson [Tanselle]. Authors and reviewers are considered in essays on Tobias Smollett’s Histories [Brack], on the Birmingham poet John Freeth [Hordern], Johnson’s efforts to obtain subscribers to his edition of Shakespeare [Fleeman], Fielding’s Amelia [Amory], and Bonnell Thornton’s techniques as a reviewer [Rizzo]. Only one of the studies deals directly with the reading public in addition to the trade, a study of whether provincial subscribers to the Monthly Review and the Critical Review were influenced in their book purchases by the reviews the journals printed [Fergus and Portner].

The scholarship is uniformly high in this collection, not surprising given the contributors. Endnotes for the individual essays are clear and helpful. However, the notes appear to indicate that a few of the articles are based on research which could be updated. For example, some references to the ESTC indicate an early period when the database was quite small. Research based on the current ESTC database might lead the author to quite different conclusions. The editor does state in the acknowledgments that the volume took several years to complete. Given that fact, it would have been helpful to have dated each essay and indicated whether it was written for this collection or first appeared elsewhere. A short biographical note on each contributor would be helpful for the beginning scholar and student.

These slight criticisms apart, Brack is to be complimented for selecting a variety of studies which indicate the continuing vibrant nature of scholarship in eighteenth-century studies of the book. In addition, all the authors in their work
reveal the rich resources available for the study of writers, books, and trade in the eighteenth century. This miscellany is indeed a fitting tribute to the work of William B. Todd.

CHARLOTTE A. STEWART
McMaster University Library


This work of Barbara Kaye is the third of a trilogy relating to bookselling and, more specifically, to the bookselling career of Percy Muir, late eminent British bookseller and the author's husband. The first work, written by Muir himself and entitled Minding My Own Business, was originally published in 1956, and reissued a few years back with a new foreword by Kaye. Muir had been with the bookselling firm of Elkin Matthew since 1930, and this first work tells of that firm's experiences through two world wars and a depression. The second work, written by Kaye and entitled The Company We Kept, describes the Muirs' move to the country, the subsequent onslaught of the First World War, and the effect on Percy's business, as well as on their family life. It is somewhat more personal view than is Muir's work.

In this third book of reminiscences, Kaye carries on the story from the viewpoint of being Muir's wife and the mother of two children. These were the years (1945-55) following the Second World War, when national associations of booksellers were trying to come to some consensus as to how best form a union for their mutual benefit. As one who presently sits on the Committee of the International League of International Booksellers [ILAB], it was of particular interest to this reviewer to read of the League's formation, and of the various individuals who played an intrinsic role in its birth. Percy Muir was one of these people and, because of his reputation for fairness and diplomacy, became president of the ILAB in 1950, and subsequently Life President of Honour.

His position of importance necessitated a great deal of travelling, and Kaye tried to accompany him on his trips as often as she could, despite the problems of two small children. Of these trips there are many interesting vignettes and some quite amusing anecdotes. At a National Book League reception, Kaye begins a conversation with a children's book writer she is convinced is Arthur Ransome. Kaye's questions fall flat but she presses on ignoring hints about her misconception. When a friend arrives on the scene, she exclaims: 'John, do you know Arthur Ransome?' 'I expect he does,' the man she had been speaking to said, 'but my name happens to be Milne' (p. 41).

There is a lengthy, interesting chapter on their first trip to the United States in 1951, where Muir was to do a lecture tour. Kaye's impressions of America,