

goals of *Story: From Fireplace to Cyberspace, Connecting Children and Narrative* is to inspire the reader to attend more storytelling events, frustrations felt along these lines may eventually be converted to positive action.

Of the 10 papers that appear in the collection, Del Negro's has the most "stage presence." "For Story's Sake: Reading as its Own Reward" is a high-impact work. Del Negro has a talent for combining practicality with inspiration. How *does* she do it? She spurs us on to attempt the ideal while assuring us that she knows it's impossible. She wants us to try anyway (p. 102).

For those in the school library setting, or for anyone interested in storytelling for that matter, Anne Shimojima's "Storytelling in the School Library Media Center" is of immense value. Shimojima has a great deal to say and she says it well:

Storytelling provides food for fantasy, which encourages creativity, originality, and flexibility. It gives us material for daydreaming, for working out our own anxieties, for imagining and wondering. The information age is here, but we need more than information. We need wisdom. Stories give us the material to develop that wisdom. (p. 6)

There are five appendices included in this publication. The one by Shimojima is worth the cost of the book alone (p. 108). She has divided her appendix into no fewer than 16 resource sections, with an annotated list of books about stories and storytelling itself being pages long. In the section on Internet resources, not only is a storytelling listserv (STORYTELL) given, but subscription instructions are included as well. She even provides an entire second grade folk-tale unit-plan.

A few of the papers do not hold their own in the collection. In his "The Storytelling Festival as Ritualization of the Storytelling Revival Mythos," Joseph Daniel Sobol shares the spiritual and cathartic experiences that he enjoyed while in attendance at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Unfortunately, the hyperbolic tone of his language detracts from his message. Learning that a drive to the festival provides a "womb-like enclosure" from which the participant may be born into the festival, that the drive itself fulfills the function of a vigil, and that the sleep deprivation of the drive may "induce altered states" that can enhance and heighten the festival experience, may scream "cult" to some (p. 28). Christian references, including invitations to repent and a likening of one popular storyteller to Christ, follow hard upon (p. 33).

No matter the uneven quality of the papers, it is clear that every presenter had an abiding enthusiasm for storytelling and the impact of story on the development of children as readers and consumers of what they read.

Jones, Plummer Alston, Jr. *Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999. 236 pp. \$59.95 (paperback). ISBN 0-313-30769-5.

Reviewed by **Alyse Jordan**, Social Work Librarian, Columbia University, 420 West 118th Street, New York, NY 10027 <aj204@columbia.edu>.

As any public or academic librarian with significant contact with the general public knows, the energy and commitment involved in the work that library and information specialists do is often intrinsically connected to the social welfare of the populations they serve. Even in its beginnings, the library profession in the United States concerned itself greatly with the ideals of educational opportunity, literacy, meeting needs, and connecting individuals and communities with resources, in essence providing an invaluable social service. Though the idea of librarian as social worker, advocate, and educator is not new, Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.'s *Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience* is perhaps the first volume to provide succinctly an historical context into which one might place the interactions among librarians, libraries, and early immigrant groups in the United States.

While the organization and structure of the book is awkward at times, Jones succeeds in outlining national sentiment and activities surrounding U.S. immigration policy from the period of free immigration (1876–1924) to the period of restricted immigration (1924–1948). By integrating into this history the history of the relationship between immigrants and libraries, Jones illustrates the role that librarians had not only in the Americanization of immigrants, but also in the transformation of what it meant to be “American,” making clear the influence that ethnic diversity has had upon the shaping of U.S. culture. Much of Jones’ work focuses on the evolution of the American Library Association’s Committee on Work with the Foreign Born (ALA CWFB). The CWFB, which began in 1918—42 years after the founding of the American Library Association in 1876—disbanded in 1948 because of a shift in the organization’s focus toward a broader concept of adult education and inclusivity. It is interesting to note that, throughout the various debates surrounding immigration, neither the ALA nor the CWFB took a firm stance on U.S. immigration policy. In general, the profession regarded immigrants as a special population for whom the CWFB’s primary objectives were the facilitation of English-language acquisition and American citizenship. In his discussion of the CWFB, Jones highlights the Committee’s accomplishments in the area of acquisition and cataloging of foreign language materials, and attributes to these efforts a growing desire on the part of the U.S.-born population to learn about other languages and cultures.

Throughout its existence, the Committee had outstanding leadership, as Jones points out in his look at the distinguished careers of Jane Maud Campbell, John Foster Carr, Eleanor (Edwards) Ledbetter, and Edna Phillips. Though their attitudes toward immigrants and the socioeconomic consequences of immigration ranged from Anglo-conformist and paternalistic to progressive and pluralistic, Jones presents each of these individuals as exemplify-

ing the concept of the librarian as social worker and advocate for disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Though Jones details the manner in which librarians demonstrated commitment to making citizens out of recently arrived immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the broader historical question about what librarians were doing to support the incorporation of other marginalized groups into American culture and society are left unanswered.

African Americans, for example, though not immigrants in the traditional sense of the word, were not recognized as full citizens of the United States until well into the latter half of this century. Further, their access to services and resources was severely limited by the post-Emancipation black codes, then later by Jim Crow laws that were not abolished until the 1960s. Jones' failure to acknowledge the treatment of freed Blacks, who for all intents and purposes were forced immigrants to the United States, poses the question about whether or not the early U.S. public library system was really "free to all."

Another potentially weak aspect of Jones' historical analysis is his focus on immigrant ethnicity with little attention paid to the significance of race. Though he addresses the white supremacist attitudes behind the implementation of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the National Origins Act of 1924, Jones states that for second generation immigrants, "the ethnic tie became increasingly meaningless" as "occupational and residential mobility, religious affiliation, political clout, and assimilation within American society gained ascendancy in immigrants' priorities" (p. 104). While this may have been true for immigrants of European heritage, this was likely not the case for immigrants hailing from Asia, Africa, or Latin America, who, as visible persons of color, did not have the option of complete invisibility or assimilation into mainstream society regardless of the level of their facility with the English language or adoption of American values.

Aside from the points of contention with Jones' presentation of historical context, *Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience* is an excellent addition to the annals of library history and is also recommended for educators, social workers, and those interested in the topic of immigration. Jones' portrayal of librarians as pioneers, humanitarians, and philanthropists is well supported by both primary and secondary sources, for which he provides an excellent bibliography and index. Issues surrounding immigration policy in the United States continue to present challenges to our collective movement as a democratic society into the next millennium. With nativist initiatives such as California's Proposition 187, which restricts benefits to undocumented immigrants, gaining majority support in the past decade, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the United States is, in fact, a nation of immigrants. Welcome are works by scholars and researchers in various disciplines who shed light on important truths and raise crucial questions about who the "real Americans" are. More than that, they make us aware that, to know where we are headed, we must carefully examine where we have been.