riety of related black-and-white and full-color photographs of related manuscripts as well. Other useful special features include a chronology of significant historic events from 1321 to 1482 relevant to the Lancastrian court, extensive endnotes, a substantial bibliography and list of manuscripts cited, and a thorough index.

The strength of *A Lancastrian Mirror for Princes* is its ability to demonstrate the importance of the book as object. As McGerr indicates, there are many other copies of the text still in existence, but the unique characteristics of this particular copy are what contribute to its significance (11). Margaret of Anjou's coat of arms within its borders, and the iconographic representations of six English kings within the historiated initials, distinguish it from all other copies (40). Although other legal statutes of the period contained kings' coats of arms, this particular copy is the only surviving one with the arms of the queen, and McGerr believes that this feature is an attempt to link the manuscript directly with Margaret of Anjou. Among the many implications that these arms generate, McGerr suggests that the fact they remain intact may indicate that the manuscript was owned by someone who remained loyal to Henry VI after he was deposed. McGerr also asserts that the depictions of the kings from Edward III to Henry VI in the *Nova statuta* are intended to represent "an unbroken line of rulers who follow a religious ideal of just kingship," but the illustrations differentiate Edward IV from his five predecessors (45). The distinction suggests a level of criticism of Edward IV by those who were supporters of Henry VI, including Margaret of Anjou herself. Both types of visual characteristics have larger repercussions in the history of this particular volume and reinforce the importance of the book beyond the text. McGerr has examined what might otherwise appear to be a common fifteenth-century legal text and has successfully demonstrated the ways in which its visual characteristics may have much greater political implications. ~ Jennifer K. Sheehan, Ph.D., Curator of Rare Books, University of North Texas Libraries

Alison Cullingford. *The Special Collections Handbook*. London: Facet Publishing, 2011 (distributed in the United States by Neal-Schuman Publishers). xiv, 210p. ISBN 9781856047579. \$125.00

This short, easy-to-use handbook was written by Alison Cullingford, the Special Collections Librarian at the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom. It covers the world of special collections from soup to nuts in ten relatively brief chapters, capturing basic points and then pointing the reader to a variety of additional resources for more information. Each chapter ends with a list that includes further reading suggestions, examples and case studies, and useful websites. The focus is on special collections in the United Kingdom, United States, and Australia, though much of the information is universally applicable.

This is a particularly useful resource for library school students and new special col-

lections librarians. Much of the content likely would be old hat for the experienced, though the references to additional materials—particularly the websites—might be useful. As a relative newbie in the world of special collections, I have found it to be an indispensable reference source and wish that I had it when I first began, as it touches on the basics of handling materials, security issues, insurance considerations, preservation concerns, donor relations, and outreach. Some questions can be answered quickly by consulting the text, and others can be investigated more thoroughly by making use of Cullingford's extensive bibliography of print and web-based sources.

The book is not designed to provide an in-depth look at all issues facing special collections librarians. Rather, it serves more as a checklist of considerations that are important to keep in mind as one develops new collections and maintains existing ones. Major concepts are emphasized with boldface type, and there are many instances of quick bullet lists containing important points. A solid index makes it simple to quickly locate relevant provisions, and the layout and type make finding the desired information an easy feat.

Readers will not find much theory or pontificating here—the goal (undoubtedly achieved) is to provide practical guidance in clear terms. Many times, and rightfully so, this consists of laying out options and considerations and urging the reader to come to an informed decision based on the circumstances and idiosyncrasies of her or his own organization. The text often includes real-life case studies that illustrate the points and decision-making processes being discussed. For example, the section on deaccessioning items includes an interesting case study involving a library's difficult decision to sell a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio.

The work includes two appendices, both more useful for the novice than for the experienced special collections librarian. The first appendix provides recommendations for basic reference sources; the second provides a quick list of basic steps one can take to develop relevant skills for a career in this area of librarianship.

The author maintains an accompanying website for the book (<http://specialcollections handbook.com>), where the links provided in the print source are updated and supplemented on a regular basis. Links relating to the case studies from the book are also included, arranged by book chapter, making for a nicely integrated experience. Bibliographical resources that are available freely online are hyperlinked.

Not cheap at \$125, this book is certainly worth the expense for someone new to the world of special collections—it will likely become a go-to reference source. ~
Laurel Davis, JD/MLS, Curator of Special Collections and Legal Information Librarian & Lecturer in Law, Boston College Law School