a “No Sitting” area in which lying prone is the rule, but some are brilliant, such as the “Cold Spots” in which designated places in the library become the sole place of escape from the hot spots of Internet connectivity.

The real meat of the book is in the “scenarios” section that explicates the underpinnings of what libraries are and can be to society. The mausoleum and neo-cloister, for example, embody traditional library functions of deep storage, retrieval, and support for the advancement of knowledge. In contrast, libraries of the here and now are sometimes temporary creations in response to society’s emergent needs, such as the People’s Library in the Occupy Wall Street movement. The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is held high as an exemplar of a new library that is not bricks and mortar, but instead is a database realized as a library in and of itself.

It is at the end of the “scenarios” section that the authors, who continuously dodge making assertions about what should be done and swerve away from making predictions, suggest that libraries multiply and diversify their civic roles to address needs and opportunities of culture and society; distributing manifestations of the library in both site-specific and occasion-specific temporary and enduring instances. In a later chapter, they state that their goal with this book was to talk about “what libraries are and what they do that is flexible with respect to site, materiality, and social context; that catalyzes a new library culture of digitally inflected play, invention, and imagination” (123).

I would highly recommend this book to academicians, civic leaders, and all librarians, asking them to skim by the ivory tower Latinisms and other linguistic drop-pings that might isolate a broader swath of readers from this outstanding book.—
Blynn Olivieri, University of West Georgia

Michael Blanding. *The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps.* New York: Gotham Books, 2014. xvi, [ii], [1], 300 p. ISBN: 978-1592408177. \$27.50

The Map Thief by Michael Blanding is an informative account of the life and crimes of E. Forbes Smiley III, a well-known antiquarian map dealer who stole rare and valuable maps from institutions for several years, selling the materials to other map dealers and directly to private collectors. Apprehended at Yale University in 2005, Smiley eventually confessed to stealing 97 maps valued at over \$3,000,000 from six libraries, agreed to cooperate with prosecutors, and was sentenced to 42 months in federal prison. He was released in January 2010.

Blanding, a journalist based in Boston, has published articles in regional, national, and online journals including *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Boston Magazine*, *The Na-*

tion, *The New Republic*, *Salon*, and *Slate*. A senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University, he is also the author of *The Coke Machine: The Dirty Truth behind the World's Favorite Soft Drink* (New York: Avery, 2010). Although he did not initiate his research with an extensive background in rare books, historical cartography, or special collections librarianship, Blanding's investigative experience enabled him to produce a detailed, well-documented, and engaging volume. Intended for the general reading public interested in maps, rare books, and/or biblio-crimes, *The Map Thief* will also be of interest to librarians, archivists, and administrators responsible for the security of maps in particular and special collections more broadly.

Maintaining his focus on Smiley's background, career, financial problems, and criminal activities, Blanding also incorporates relevant material on the development of maps in Western Europe and North America; antiquarian rare book and map collectors, dealers, and librarians; other recent cases of map and book thieves; and the criminal justice system's ability to respond to such thefts from cultural heritage institutions. These topics are well integrated into the main story, describing the initial success and eventual difficulties of Smiley's business. While much of this background may be familiar to special collections librarians, the information provides appropriate context for Smiley's criminal acts.

After graduating from Hampshire College, Smiley first began selling maps in 1979 in the rare books division of the B. Altman and Company department store in New York City. For the next five years, this work provided him with the fundamentals of the map trade and allowed him to meet numerous private customers. Being in New York, he also took great advantage of the primary and secondary cartographic resources at the New York Public Library, becoming particularly interested in the mapping history of North America. When Smiley began his own business in 1984, he maintained his focus on maps delineating the history and development of the British colonies in the western hemisphere. He also continued working primarily with private clients rather than selling to institutions. As particularly rare and historically significant maps greatly increased in value at this time, his business relations with wealthy and committed collectors became extremely profitable.

However, as detailed in *The Map Thief*, Smiley also had numerous financial problems throughout his career. These were compounded by his acquisition of properties on Martha's Vineyard and in rural Maine and strained relations with several other high-end map and rare book dealers. Financial and emotional pressures increased as his work developing two major private collections concluded. As these individual collections were institutionalized at the Boston Public Library and the New York Public Library, Smiley believed he did not receive proper recognition

for his contributions. Motives of debt and revenge, combined with knowledge and opportunity, led to Smiley's numerous thefts from collections he had helped build and libraries he had consulted at Yale University, New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Harvard University, the Newberry Library, and the British Library.

Readers of this journal will recognize many of the institutional problems regarding security that Blanding outlines, particularly inadequate cataloguing and marking of cartographic materials and insufficient reading room supervision. These issues relate not only to the commission of the thefts but also to numerous difficulties after Smiley's arrest. The final three chapters of the book ("The Plea," "Map Quest," and "Terra Incognita") are particularly valuable for describing in detail Smiley's prosecution, plea bargain, and sentencing; the problems libraries encountered in positively identifying individual maps for recovery; and the issue of financial restitution to individual institutions as well as dealers who had bought and then sold the stolen maps.

Another notable element of interest in *The Map Thief* is the author's interview with Smiley following his release from prison, the convicted thief's first recorded interview outside of legal proceedings. Although not published here as a transcript, the interview served as source material throughout the text. Blanding also provides two helpful appendices related to the Smiley case: "Maps Smiley Admitted Stealing" and "Additional Maps Libraries Reported Missing." The former lists 97 maps and the latter includes an additional 158 maps. For each map, the date, creator, title, library, and recovery status at the time of publication is included.

Additional strengths to recommend the book include detailed documentation of sources in the notes; a list of the numerous characters mentioned in the text, including dealers, librarians, private collectors, and representatives of the legal system; selected mapmakers including authors, printers, and publishers; a bibliography focused on cartographic sources; and an index. Minor weaknesses in the book should also be mentioned. The volume is illustrated with images of maps discussed in the story, but the size and detail of these reproductions are not adequate for close viewing. Interested readers, however, can consult images of the vast majority of these maps in standard cartographic references cited in the bibliography. These include Philip D. Burden's *The Mapping of North America*, Barbara B. McCorkle's *New England in Early Printed Maps, 1513–1800*, Seymour I. Schwartz and Ralph E. Ehrenberg's *The Mapping of America*, and Rodney W. Shirley's *The Mapping of the World*. Minor copy editing errors are also a slight distraction in an otherwise well-written text.

Librarians and archivists will find *The Map Thief* to be a worthwhile addition to the recent literature recounting crimes involving rare and unique cultural heritage materials. Beyond the specific instances of Smiley's criminal acts, special collec-

tions staff will find descriptions of institutional settings and procedures that can be compared to their own library’s circumstances and practices. The book will also serve as a timely reminder to closely review the *ACRL/RBMS Guidelines Regarding Security and Theft in Special Collections* and the ACRL security manual *Guide to Security Considerations and Practices for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Libraries*, compiled and edited by Everett C. Wilkie, Jr. (Chicago: Association of College & Research Libraries, 2011) for security measures that can be reconsidered and improved.—*Daniel J. Slive, Head of Special Collections, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University*

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