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Microform Reviews/Feature Review

Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature Segment II The Subject Matter of the Titles Published During the Years 1801–1850

by Nancy Begg

Nancy Begg is the supervising cataloger for the Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature project, currently working out of the New York State Library, Albany, New York.

The publication of the Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature in microfilm was first announced in the October 1973 issue of Microform Review. A review of Segment I: Printed Books through 1800 was published near the completion of this phase of the project in the January 1977 issue. Here, one of the catalogers involved with Segment II of the project presents a more detailed look at the contents of a major microform project for economic history.

Since 1981, a microfilm set of the Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature has been available with an accompanying card catalog set and a consolidated bibliographic guide to the collection. This very fine and comprehensive collection is primarily the combined resources of the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature at the University of London, England and the Kress Library of Business at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in Boston, Massachusetts. The foundation upon which this collection was built, was brought about through the avid interest and collector's instinct of Professor Herbert Somerton Foxwell, 1849–1936, for early economic literature. The Goldsmiths' Library bought his first collection in 1901, and the Kress Library acquired his second collection after his death.¹⁾

A total of 60,000 monograph titles and 450 serial titles comprise this extensive collection, which would

be of special interest to social scientists. The abbreviated catalog cards provide the author, title, publisher's statement, physical description, and microfilm publisher's information. The consolidated bibliographic guide, which follows the arrangement of the titles on the microfilm, is useful when searching by year and topic.

Research Publications, Inc. in Woodbridge, Connecticut has expertly microfilmed the collection in its entirety and has made it available for purchase. The total collection comprises 4,259 reels divided into segment I (monographs published during the years 1473–1850), segment II (monographs published during the years 1801–1850), segment III (serials published during the years 1660–1940), and a supplement in two parts that adds publications to segment I and segment II. The collection is also divided by units with approximately 50 reels per unit. The collection can be purchased as a whole, by unit, or by reel. Payment may be by unit, through standing order, or by deferred payment.

The eight volume consolidated bibliographic guide is available for free with the purchase of the microfilm set, or can be purchased separately. Volumes 1–7 are available now. Volume 8 will be published by the fall of 1991 and will include a comprehensive author/title index.

The card catalog set is available from Research Publications for a fee, and the magnetic tapes of the online cataloged portion of the collection are available for in-house automated catalog systems from OCLC.

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