

change of ideas and information, a perennial concern of Carter's circle of book-world friends. His own efforts—in reviews, notes, catalogue entries, talks, and conversations—took up a lot of his time, but they played a major role, through their ubiquity and style, in educating all kinds of participants in the book world. And they did not prevent his producing substantial scholarly work. In May of 1939, when *BN&Q* ended and he marked his thirty-fourth birthday, he could look back on a decade of impressive accomplishment, rarely equaled in bibliographical history.

### THE 1940S

Carter's role in the war effort began in September 1939, when he became a press censor for the Ministry of Information, serving as information secretary to the Minister, Brendan Bracken. His duties there allowed him to continue his work at Scribner's (whose office at 23 Bedford Square was around the corner); but four years later, in November 1943, he was named director of the General Division of the Ministry's New York office, called British Information Services, which necessitated his taking a leave of absence from Scribner's. (In his New York position, which involved being supervisor of publications, he wrote in 1945 an anonymous and widely circulated pamphlet, *Victory in Burma*, intended to show, as he says at the outset, that Britain's Burma campaigns "have been an integral and a vital part of the over-all Allied strategy in the war against Japan.") His government service ended in October 1945; and at the beginning of 1946 he was named managing director of Scribner's London office, with new responsibilities added to his previous ones. It is understandable, therefore, that the pace of his writing in the 1930s could not be maintained in the 1940s. But he did produce a major book and kept up his journalistic presence, even adding two mass-circulation magazines, *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The Cornhill Magazine*, to his outlets (having written some theater reviews for *The Spectator* in 1940).

His reviews and reports for *Publishers' Weekly* in the late 1930s and early 1940s contain many moving references to the war. He begins his comment on the first volume of W. W. Greg's drama bibliography this way: "This is the week of Hitler's invasion of Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. It is, therefore, a week in which the words 'important' and 'a major event' sound a little odd when applied to a book." Later in the same column, he notes the ending of *Bibliographical Notes & Queries* and adds, "Let us hope that it may revive, with other humane activities, when we reach that post-war world which now looks so much like a mirage" (15 June 1940). The title of another piece, "Bomb-Proof Bibliography" (21 October 1939), is explained at the outset: "When the newspapers are full of the war, and our sleep is constantly interrupted by air-raid