

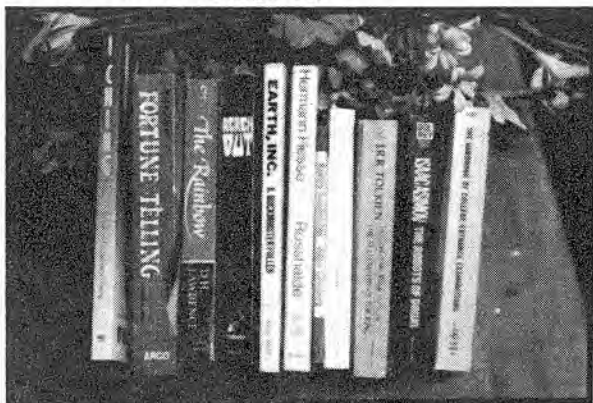
MIND'S EYE

Shelf life

by Don Rubin

Some people read books; we read the shelves. Bookcases tell volumes about the lives of their owners. They're short stories, admittedly, and most of the endings have yet to be written. But they do provide an introduction. Herewith, an annotated sampling of shelves belonging to:

AN AGING HIPPIE (age 40)



College Entrance Exams — "dropped out."
 The Fellowship of the Ring — read it twice
 A Separate Reality — "peyote and mushrooms"
 Reality Sandwiches — read it three times
 Rosshalde — read it three times
 Earth Inc. — never read it
 Fortune Telling — "What's your sign?"
 I Ching — what's your problem?

A VIDEOGRAPHER (age 32)



"bad dub"
 "bad audio"
 "bad editor"
 "good dub"
 "cost \$11,000"
 "blank"
 "head cleaner"

A PSYCHIATRIST (age 59)



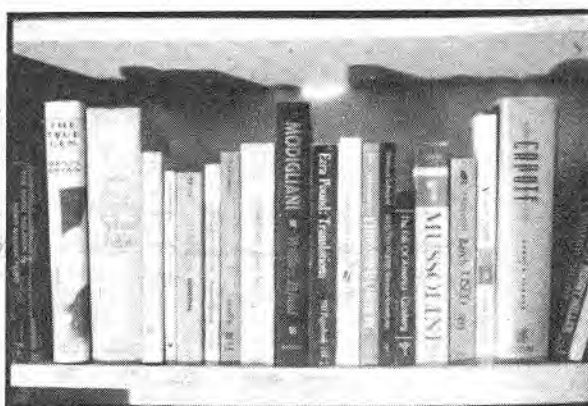
About the Kinsey Report — four-letter words
 Three Case Histories — shrink's Freud 1
 New Crossword Puzzles — five-letter words
 New Sexuality — your mother
 Male Sexualities and Magical Practices
 Strange Superstitions and the shaman
 — squeeze the shaman
 Man Against Himself — your father?
 Anti-Oedipus — My mother? — shrink's Freud 2
 New Introductory Lectures — shrink's Freud 3
 Save Your Knees — jogging patient's memories?
 Suicide - his knees are killing him
 Satan: His Psychotherapy and Cure...
 — persecution complex

AN ARCHITECT (age 57)



Die Neue Klasse — neue wave
 The Wretched of the Earth — see Galbraith
 Tom Jones — nude deal
 The Magus — Greek revival?
 The Diary of a Young Girl — see Freud
 — architect's Freud
 Leonardo da Vinci: A Study in Psychosexuality
 — architect's Freud
 The Liberal Hour —
 — architect's Freud
 Spinoza — new order
 The Wretched of the Earth — see Galbraith
 Die Neue Klasse — neue wave

AN AD EXEC/FORMER LIT. MAJOR (age 38)



Capote — "lost interest after first chapter"
 Barchester Towers (used) — "second-hand Trollope"
 Mussolini — liked Clara Petacci
 The Fall of America — a seasonal favorite
 Selected Poems: Summer Knowledge — another season
 Conversations with Kafka — what a trial
 Moses and Monotheism — ad-man's Freud
 Ernest Hemingway Selected Letters
 — "called himself Hemingstein"
 The True Gen — what other people called him

A GRAPHIC DESIGNER (age 44)



Legacy of Light — "shmoosed publisher for it"
 The Art of Persuasion — "persuaded me to waste \$30"
 Bauhaus — "worth it for the spine alone"
 AIGAS — "comp copy"
 Art Director's Annual
 — "\$200 in hanging fees to get into it"
 High Tech — "had to have it"
 History of Art — "I've got the 3rd edition, too."
 Fitzes Style — "trendy crap"
 Symbols of America — "a good history of logos"
 Symbols of Style
 — "couldn't wait 10 years for the tree Mohawk series"
 Great Magazine Covers — "great"
 Populuxe — see Fitzes Style