

Director-General retires

DR GEORGE CHANDLER, Director-General of the National Library of Australia since 1974, retires officially on 1 July 1980. Dr Chandler spent his last day in office on 5 May as this will enable him to fulfil a number of overseas engagements.

Paying tribute to Dr Chandler, the Chairman of the Library Council, Mr K.B. Myer, said that during Dr Chandler's term as Director-General, the Library had seen some very significant developments in its humanities collections, including the acquisition of Bligh's Notebook, the personal papers of many notable Australians and the growth, not only in size but also in importance, of the Library's National Film Archive.

Mr Myer said Dr Chandler had recommended and achieved the creation of a number of national subject libraries and new library services, demonstrating his administrative skill and guidance despite 'difficulties, frustrations and hardships.'

'It was through his initiative that the first International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on Resource-sharing in Asia and Oceania was held in Canberra last May,' Mr Myer said. 'This paved the way for a leadership role for the Library in South-East Asia.'

Dr Chandler will continue to be based in Australia after retirement.



Director-General Dr George Chandler . . . leaves NLA

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CO-OPERATIVE

Wollongong City Library, with the assistance of a grant from the State Library Council, has established a foreign language co-operative purchasing scheme in an endeavour to improve the range of materials available and also to reduce their costs.

The co-operative aims to resolve frustrations associated with purchasing foreign language materials, be it for a small library interested in only a few books or a library attempting to provide a service as nearly as possible equivalent to the collections provided in English.

The project has developed as the result of a pilot study carried out by 10 NSW public libraries during 1979. Following preliminary contact with a wide range of book suppliers, participants were able to select four overseas suppliers, with whom orders for a total of \$14,800 were placed.

Suppliers were selected on the basis of their willingness to supply comprehensive catalogues from which to select, guarantees of service, and discounts for bulk purchasing.

Having taken into account freight charges, the libraries were able to obtain in excess of 50 percent more titles for their money. The quality and range of material was excellent, and supply was made promptly.

Wollongong City Library is very keen to encourage groups other than public libraries to participate in this scheme. This can be done during the initial 12 months at no charge because of the grant made by the Library Council. It is anticipated that the likely cost to participants after 12 months will easily be absorbed by the discounts made available by suppliers.

Any organisation interested in participating should contact Mr Paul Jones, Migrant Services Librarian, Wollongong City Library (042) 29 9111.

Rare atlas on display

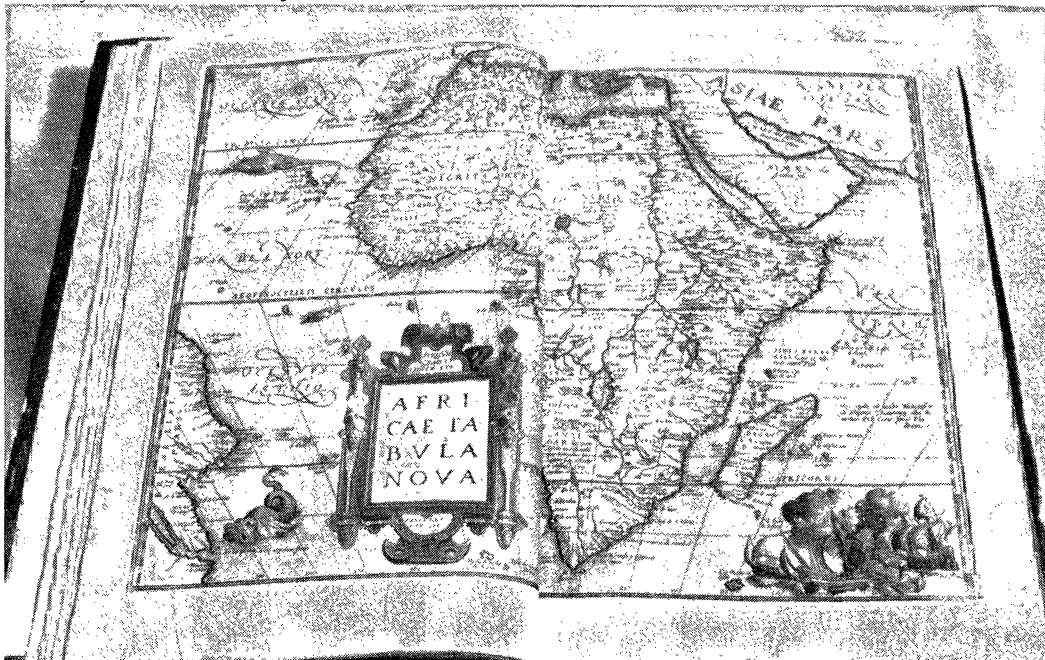
The South Australia State Reference Library has on display the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1575 edition, by Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598).

The *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, or *Atlas of the World*, was the first uniformly sized, systematic collection of maps based on contemporary knowledge and in that sense may be called the first modern atlas.

First published in 1570, it achieved immediate popularity and no less than 42 folio editions were issued between 1570 and 1612.

This magnificent copy, is on loan to the State Library through the National Library of Australia from the Library of Westminster Abbey.

The atlas will be on display at the State Library of SA until mid June.



Pages from *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*

Children choose books for award

FOR THE first time in Western Australia, and possibly in Australia, children will have a major say in a book award.

The WA Young Readers Book Award, organised by the Library Association of Australia (WA Branch) School Libraries Section, is being enthusiastically received by children and adults in WA.

There are two sections to the Award: Primary: Years four-seven (ages approximately nine-12 years); and Secondary: Years eight-10 (ages approximately 13-15 years).

About 100 primary and 80 secondary schools and 20 public libraries are participating.

On the Consultative Committee are the respective Presidents of the School Libraries Section (WA), Western Australia School Libraries Association, the Children's Book Council, representatives of Library Services Branch (Education Department) and State Library, as well as primary and secondary school teachers, teacher-librarians and public and children's librarians. Colin Kenworthy, lecturer at Mt Lawley CAE, originated the idea and is an active member of the committee.

Selection of books

Suggestions for popular books, published between 1975 and 1979, came from young readers throughout Western Australia. These were narrowed down to 50 books in each of the Primary and Secondary Sections by the respective Selection Committees. Each Selection Committee had a composition similar to the Consultative Committee.

Evaluation Forms

Because it would be impossible for every child to read every book, it was decided to ask each child to express an opinion of the books that she/he read.

Evaluation forms were devised and the readers mark a box to indicate whether they thought a book was Awful, OK, Quite Good or Terrific.

Book Lists

A list of the books chosen is available from Leila Hoffman, 83 Howes Cres., Dianella, WA 6062.