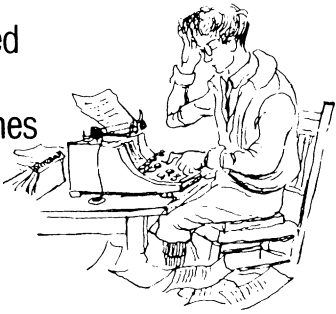


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Poetic justice

IN his *Modern Australian poetry, 1920-1970*, Herbert C. Jaffa really does justice to his subject. This guide to information sources is concerned with poets who were born after 1901 and whose work has been published up to the early 1970s.

So we come, conveniently, from Kenneth Slessor (on whom Jaffa wrote an earlier monograph) to the 'younger poets and the new poetry'.

Jaffa begins his work with general bibliographical aids and progresses through major books, anthologies and articles on his subject, to a very full treatment of poets individually and of movements such as the Angry Penguins and the Jindyworobak Poets. Jaffa's extensive and balanced comments on the poets, their writing and their critics make this an excellent starting point in any study of Australian poetry of the period.

There is a very full personal name index, but the title entries are not as plentiful as they should be in a work of reference and the limitations of the index are not explained. It is to be hoped that in a future edition the index will not be skimmed. Otherwise Jaffa's is a stalwart work.

Modern Australian poetry, 1920-1970 / A guide to information sources (Volume 24 in the American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series) by Herbert C. Jaffa was published in 1979 by Gale Research and costs US\$24.00. It is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 8103 1242 5).

While we're on the subject

MANY of the 'new poets' mentioned by Jaffa figure in *The new Australian poetry: the work of twenty-four poets from Australian poetry's most exciting decade*, edited by John Tranter and published by Makar Press last year.

This anthology is a significant resource, since the poems included first appeared mainly in very small editions or in 'underground' magazines.

So, if you want 300-odd pages of very lively poetry, nicely printed, with biographical and bibliographical notes on the poets, *The new Australian poetry* is published by Makar Press, PO Box 71, St Lucia, Qld 4067, and costs \$12.75. (ISBN 0 909354 32 4).

As she was spoke

ON the face of it *The pronunciation of 10,000 proper names* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1979) seems like a Good Idea.

When more than the title is examined, however, some limitations appear. It is not intended for scholars nor for linguists' the preface warns us, but for the 'reading public' who need it, whereas the others do not - I would have hoped that an authoritative work could have served both. And the work is quite clearly stated as being a reprint of the New York: Dodd, Mead, 1922 edition: how many

ordinary members of the 'reading public' would check the title page and verso before assuming that this new, smartly-bound volume was a reasonably up-to-date pronunciation dictionary.

The pronunciation of proper names does (alas) change, and if one followed the phonetic suggestions for Guiana or Guyana for example, one would be out of keeping with both the BBC and the ABC, quite apart from the natives.

Most of the pronunciations, of course, are quite correct even today (the authors even get Magdalen College right, which is an achievement), but I think that the value, other than historical, of a 58-year-old pronunciation dictionary is questionable.

Had it been revised for publication (the addition of Australia, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane etc, would be among inclusions meriting consideration in view of their mispronunciation by many members of the non-Australian reading public), it would have been a much more worthwhile work. As it is, it has its uses, but should be used with care.

The pronunciation of 10,000 proper names by Mary Stuart Mackey and Maryette Goodwin Mackey has been republished by Gale Research and costs US\$22.00. It is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (ISBN 0 8103 4137 9).

FOI in NSW

A FREEDOM of Information Council has been established in New South Wales, with the general objective of asserting the right of individuals, organisations and corporate bodies to 'freedom of access to past and present information subject only to necessary exemptions'.

Such exemptions would cover areas such as the security of the state, the protection of essential administrative and business interests and the protection of privacy of the individual.

Membership of the Council is open to individuals (\$10.00 per year), and associations (\$25.00 per year), with a special rate of \$2.00 for students, pensioners and the 'broke'. The Council publishes a newsletter and membership enquiries should be directed to the Treasurer, PO Box 753, Manly NSW 2095. The President of the Council is Allan Horton, and several other librarians figure on the committee.

Free, or nearly free

A LITTLE book listing sources of free and nearly free project material in Australia was published last year by Ron Mercier. Reminiscent of the Encyclopaedia Britannica's *How and where directory* (Sydney, 1973), Mercier's useful 72-page work is arranged alphabetically by subjects, and gives names and addresses of sources, an indication of the type of material available and its level, and any costs involved (most of the items are free). There is a good index to a very wide range of materials. *Where do you get it?* by Ron Mercier is very reasonably priced at \$2.95 and is available from book suppliers or direct from the author at PO Box H145, Australia Square Post Office, Sydney 2000. (ISBN 0 9597209 1 X).

Wanted - reward promised

WE don't seem to receive as many annual reports from library services around Australia as we should. Not only may we be missing out on what is happening somewhere, but library authorities may be missing out on publicity for some newsworthy development in their service. We can promise careful reading, at the very least. Please send in your annual reports. It could be rewarding for everyone.

Nuclear - pro and con

THE Library Board of Western Australia has recently published a select list of materials on nuclear energy held in the State Reference Library. The 146 items attempt to present 'a balanced collection of documents presenting arguments both for and against the use of nuclear power and the mining of uranium'.

The bulk of the titles listed were published since 1975, and cover such topics as safeguards and security, waste handling and management, reactor technology, uranium and radiation health hazards. About two-thirds of the items are monographs; the remainder are relevant serials, standards, bibliographies and abstracts.

Nuclear energy: a select list was compiled by Judi Willmott and Ian Stone of the Commerce and Technology Division of the State Reference Library, 40 James Street, Perth, WA 6000, and copies are available gratis. (ISBN 0 7244 6917 6).

A sombre document

AMNESTY International is well known for its reports on prisoners of conscience in various countries of the world. Less well known perhaps is this organisation's commitment to oppose 'by all appropriate means' the imposition and the infliction of the death penalty, on the grounds that it violates the right to life and that it is the most cruel, inhuman and degrading of all forms of punishment.

Amnesty International has now released a report on the death penalty around the world. This report draws attention to the main arguments in the debate over abolition or retention, and provides detailed information on the extent to which the death penalty has been used in the period 1973-1977. A 12-page insert deals with developments up to mid-1979.

There is a country-by-country survey of the use of capital punishment - it is salutary to note how few countries are totally abolitionist. Reference librarians, who are often subjected to some macabre requests, will also note the illustrations, which include one of the few pictures I have seen of a garotte.

This thought-provoking 200-page report is published in London by Amnesty International, and is available locally from Amnesty International at GPO Box 2598, Sydney, NSW 2001. *The death penalty* costs \$5.00. (ISBN 0 900058 88 9).

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