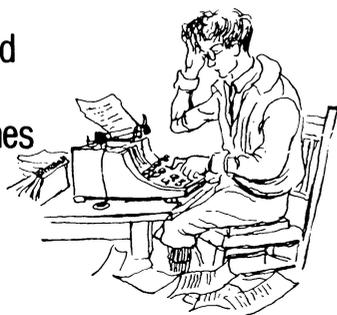


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## Community info

THE Community Information Special Interest Group of the Library Association of Australia was formed last year. It aims to 'investigate, develop and promote the role of librarians in the field of community information', to bring together people working in the field, to disseminate information and contribute to the theory and practice of community information. Not the least important part of the Group's work will be promoting co-operation with other agencies. The Group publishes a newsletter, catchily entitled *Tendrill*, to keep members and others informed. It's edited by Sue Healy and is available from her c/o State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000. (ISSN 0157-6313).

## The little people

SMALL presses and little magazines proliferated in the late 60s and early 70s but their contribution to Australian culture is hard to assess.

As Henry Mayer says in his introduction to Michael Denholm's *Small press publishing in Australia*, both are 'largely invisible' and their very existence known at best to a tiny circle.

Denholm's book, which sprang from an assignment for the DipLib at the University of New South Wales a few years ago and, from the evidence, seems to have become a consuming passion, sets out to throw a lot of light on his subject. He provides lengthy notes and comments on small publishers and magazines, outlining how they began and who started them, their philosophy, their productions and their addresses.

The birth of this book has been somewhat protracted and a note opposite the title page warns us that information is correct only to the time of writing, 1975/76.

The function of this work is not to provide a directory of small publishers and magazines for current use — for that you will need other sources, such as the *Australasian small press review* — but to survey in detail the situation in the early 1970s, title by title, name by name. This Denholm does pretty well, with interesting introductory essays and a lengthy bibliography, which would have benefited from some annotations. The indexing is full and competent.

Altogether this is an essential book for librarians with even a passing interest in current Australian literature.

Michael Denholm's *Small press publishing in Australia: the early 1970s* is published by Second Back Row Press and costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 909325 19 7).

## International BIP

A NEW publication from K.G. Saur of Munich attempts to list works in English which are in print in countries other than the US and the UK. The first edition of *International books in print*, 1979, lists some 80,000 titles from 89 countries, including of course Australia. The information provided is based upon data

supplied by publishers and national libraries: coverage seems, on a sampling, to be very good, judging by the number of small Australian publishers represented, for example.

The information provided is what you would expect from an in-print listing: authors, titles, dates of publication, series, publishers, prices, and ISBNs where known. Full details are given under the main entry; other entries for a particular item would refer you to the main entry. A list of publishers and their addresses is appended to the second volume.

*International books in print: English-language titles published outside the USA and the United Kingdom* will be published annually by K.G. Saur. The price for the two volume 1979 set is £80.00 and is available locally from the James Bennett Group. (German ISBN 3 598 07070 5; US ISBN 0 89664 050 7; ISSN 0170-9348.)

## Sights and sounds

EDUCATIONAL Media Australia specialises in audiovisual material for primary and secondary education. A bewildering range of items from the company covers such areas as geography, English, drama, home economics, science, arts and crafts, history, social studies and Asian studies.

Most kits consist of a number of slides or a filmstrip with accompanying audio cassette and notes. Those which I have seen are excellently produced. Particularly noteworthy is *A history of Australian women 1788-1860*, partly compiled by Beatrice Faust. This kit covers the convict, squatter and gold rush eras and consists of topic cards, copying masters for duplicating notes, 20 slides, a teacher's guide and a cassette, all packaged in a 'hang-up' (!) bag. The kit is intended for lower and middle secondary students and costs \$43.00.

Another interesting series of kits covers aboriginal studies; yet another, designed for primary schools, deals with the topic 'Living in Australia', with studies of urban and rural areas. For further information on these or on any other of their publications, contact Educational Media Australia, indicating your particular area of interest. Their address is 237 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, Vic 3205.

## An unusual librarian

NOT many librarians can claim the distinction of having been raised in a grievance debate in the House of Representatives.

Dally R. Messenger can, because among his distinctions is a DipLib from Melbourne State College.

During the grievance debate on 17 August 1978, Mr Ruddock, Member for Dundas, said that in his view Messenger had 'set about to produce a series of pagan ceremonies to plagiarise what people regard as legitimate values in our community'.

Exception was taken to the performance of name-giving ceremonies and the like (some of which any member of the public could legally perform) by Civil Marriage Celebrants who, under a section of the Marriage Act, are authorised to solemnise marriages. Messenger's *Ceremonies for today*, published last year, is 'an all new guide to civil weddings, renewal of vows, namegivings and funerals' and is a reworking of *Cultural celebrations in Australia*.

He describes in detail the form of a ceremony conducted for these various occasions by a celebrant and includes poetic and prose passages (some of them from his own pen) which are suitably solemn. There are useful hints about the ceremony and other arrangements ('Rings go on better if sometime before the ceremony a little vaseline or soap is

placed inside the circle') — but probably not much more than you would get in a wedding etiquette book.

When it comes to other ceremonies or the 'life-centred funeral' however, this work is more out of the ordinary. Reprinted are some sample funeral orations which despite the inevitable clichés must have been a comfort for the bereaved, who were looking for an alternative to a religious service.

*Ceremonies for today* is an unusual work from an unusual and controversial man. It is published by Brian Zouch Publications, Armadale, Victoria. (ISBN 0 908036 01 9).

## Diddling and fiddling

THE abuse of computers is the main area of concern of CIT-CARB (Caulfield Institute of Technology-Computer Abuse Research Bureau) which was established in August 1978 by a group of interested people from commerce, industry and tertiary institutions.

Computer abuse, as defined by CIT-CARB, embraces theft, fraud, embezzlement, damage, sabotage, trespass, unauthorised modification of data and unauthorised data interception. The Bureau points out that there have been many recorded incidents involving computer abuse overseas, and there is no reason to suspect that they do not occur in Australia.

CIT-CARB's *A Study in computer abuse* and *Computer abuse* are two of its publications intended to highlight this newly-emerging problem. The first is a 92-page research paper on the incidence of computer abuse in the United States together with a bibliography of relevant material available in Australian libraries. The second presents the papers of a one-day seminar on risks, prevention, control, legislation and computer security.

*A Study in computer abuse*, costing \$10.00 and *Computer abuse*, \$20.00, are available from CIT-CARB at PO Box 197, Caulfield East, Vic 3146. Postage is \$1.50 per copy extra.

## Limited — by design

THE scope of Anthony J. Coulson's excellent *A bibliography of design in Britain 1851-1970* is deliberately limited to keep the work within manageable proportions.

Explaining the rationale behind his quite strict self-imposed guidelines, Coulson comments on the lack of serious historical research on many design topics, and stresses that he is attempting to cover a very wide range of subjects, many of which have scarcely been studied before. His task is therefore that of an anthologist, rather than of a comprehensive bibliographer.

Coulson interprets design very broadly, but is very selective with areas which are already well documented, such as stamps, coins, architecture and town and country planning.

Why 1851 as a starting point? His table of dates provides the answer — that was the year of the Great Exhibition.

The work itself is divided into three main sections, covering publications which describe or illustrate how the concept of design was fostered, specific works on design concepts and important designers and publications on particular areas of design activity. The work is rounded off with a 'subject finder', an index to the major sections and subjects covered by the bibliography: it is not, and is not intended to be, an exhaustive index to the whole book.

Coulson's work is a happy hunting ground for anyone requiring references to British design over the past century and a quarter. *A bibliography of design in Britain 1851-1970* was published by the Design Council in London last year and costs £12.50. (ISBN 0 85072 091 5).