

A ROVING REPORT...

Top library brass go troppo

DIETRICH BORCHARDT, the Chief Librarian of La Trobe University, and Allan Horton, University Librarian of the University of New South Wales have recently returned from an exciting but strenuous visit to Indonesia where they have been acting as library consultants to the Indonesian government within the Australian-Asian Universities Co-operative Scheme (AAUCS).

AAUCS operates under the aegis of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and its primary objective is to help certain Indonesian universities to improve their academic programs in the areas of agriculture and food production.

Whatever the effect on Indonesian university librarianship of this extraordinary pair of missionaries, the profession in Australia has now reason to be concerned about its own future. Having returned hail and hearty, undaunted by the task of opening new vistas to the score or two of university librarians in Indonesia who are battling to provide information services to a university population of 100,000 to 150,000 heads, having overcome the rigours of equatorial heat, the horrors of Asian foods, the considerable risks of urban and rural life in a community deliberately and fatalistically blind to traffic hazards (on the average one bus full of people is wrecked almost every day in Indonesia), having travelled by night in buses seemingly marked for destinations totally different from those they wanted to reach, having been tempted and — need it be said? — having rejected the lures of male and female impersonators, the two Australian library missionaries appear to be willing and able to cope with the regeneration of the Australian library scene. Bravo!

DHB, as he is commonly referred to, has been a Library Consultant in Indonesia for seven years — quite besides his missionary efforts in Turkey, South America and a certain island not far from the Australian mainland; Big Al, as he would like his friends to



The two missionaries . . . out in the midday sun. The 'shady' character is DHB.

think of him, is as yet a novice in this game but he will be succeeding DHB in the role of bibliomissionary in the AAUCS projects — and incidentally he will be assuming the mantle of 'visiting University Librarian' which DHB is about to shed on his retirement at the end of this year.

Aged and taciturn, DHB was not willing to say more than 'No comment' — he'd only just heard of the story of the Archbishop's visit to New York — but Big Al was all ready to spill the beans. 'Marvellous country', he said. 'First time I have been among people where literally everyone was smaller than I. When it came to getting food, to having tickets endorsed, to procuring whatever was wanted, I only had to stretch out my arm and there it was, right in front at the counter, the ticket man's VDU, the whatever's front button or zip — quite marvellous. Charles Darwin, I have proved it, was quite right'.

On being asked to describe their work, Big Al could only continue to say: 'Marvellous, quite marvellous'. 'What', we asked. 'Well, the people, the people are marvellous. So kind, so smiling! Why, I have hundreds of snapshots — you must come and see them'. Silence —

Asked about their achievements the new consultant drew himself up from his normal hunched position and rattled off what he had apparently been wanting to say for some time:

'Marvellous country, d'you know, marvellous — and just made for chaps like us. Marvellous success story too d'you know. Just as a measure of my mate's success Dietrich has had it much his way, even in Indonesia.

For instance let me just say that the Indonesian government has, through its Directorate of Higher Education, ruled that the centralisation of library facilities in universities should be an official objective and that funds are being provided for some buildings to allow this objective to be put into force. Maybe it is not all evident yet, but it is there, on paper! And the government has also indicated that concomitant with such centralisation the University librarians should have the status of a dean. Bully for them!

'Dietrich has also been instrumental in developing the resources of a number of these libraries, and has administered a program of book supplies through funds provided by the

AAUCS. Besides, all the major scientific journals published in Australia are being provided for the libraries associated with AAUCS. But the most challenging thing that he has done is to begin to influence the education of Indonesian librarians, library assistants and para-professional staff by recommending the creation of fellowships which allow Indonesians to study in Australia, and in a para-professional school that is being developed in Hasanuddin University in Ujung Pandang (formerly Macassar).

'More must be done, of course, but above all I shall make it my own prime objective to continue working for DHB's objective, to consolidate his achievements and to try and ensure that librarianship develops further.'

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Library Technicians

Two breakthroughs in the employment of library technicians have occurred recently.

The South Australian Public Service has introduced a senior library technician grade into its classifications.

The Association has also been advised that following its discussions with the Public Service Board last year all persons possessing one of the Library Technician Certificates currently recognised by the LAA, are eligible for appointment, promotion or transfer to Library Officer positions within the Commonwealth Public Service.

Work value cases

Hearings of an application for salary increases for librarians in the Commonwealth Public Service before the Deputy Public Service Arbitrator Booth were held in the last two weeks of July.

University library staff in New South Wales have hearing dates in August for their applications for salary increases before the NSW Universities Staff (State) Conciliation Committee.

Results of these two applications will be published in *Incite* as soon as they are known.

Judith Hill

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