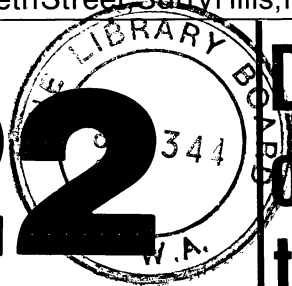


LAA 22



Deputy Librarian of Congress to visit Australia

'Princely' opening

THE FORMER PRINCE DONALD of River Torrens Province will add a royal note to the opening of LAA22 in Adelaide's Festival Theatre on 22 August 1982. Prince Donald, the alter-ego of Adelaide University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor D.R. Stranks, announced the secession of his 'province' from South Australia in August this year as part of the week of fun and fund-raising for research into multiple sclerosis.

It was a gesture typifying both his ability to identify with student activities and a concern for others already expressed by his involvement in the work of Community Aid Abroad.

Professor Stranks is well-qualified to speak on the topic 'Libraries in a time of economic crisis' as his term of office since 1977 has been one of increasing economic uncertainty and looming restrictions. In May he expressed strong opposition to the Razor Gang's decision to impose fees on higher degree students, seeing this as a 'serious deterrent to highly qualified and talented graduates exercising their abilities and skills to the benefit of Australia'.

The fluctuating fortunes of universities are also reflected more widely in libraries of all kinds as they try to establish priorities in building and maintaining collections, meeting current needs and planning for future needs of users.

Before taking up his present post, Professor Stranks was Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in the University of Melbourne. He has had wide experience in administration, research and teaching in Australia and overseas (USA,



Professor D.R. Stranks, in his role as Prince Donald, auctions a pair of princely knickers during a week of fund-raising for research into multiple sclerosis. Photograph courtesy *The Adelaide Advertiser*.

Great Britain, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and West Germany) and is the author of several books on chemistry.

Professor Stranks' opening address will also serve as a welcome from a host as the university campus is the venue for a large number of Conference activities.

Judy Bunney



Bill Welsh . . . Deputy Librarian of Congress

WILLIAM J. WELSH, the Deputy Librarian of Congress, is to visit Australia in early December. He is to be the Keynote Speaker at a two-day seminar on National Information Policy being held in Canberra.

As Deputy Librarian, Bill Welsh is the most senior professional librarian at the Library of Congress (the Librarian of Congress is a political appointment).

Mr Welsh has worked at LC for most of his professional career, starting as a Library Assistant in 1947 and then holding progressively more senior positions in acquisitions, processing and administration. He was appointed Director of the Processing Department in 1968 and Deputy Librarian in 1976.

The author of numerous journal articles, many published in *Library Resources and Technical Services*, Bill Welsh is a member of the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, heavily involved in IFLA and the LC representative on many US library and information bodies: he's thus ideally placed to talk about national information policy. Unfortunately his stay in Australia will be very brief, with Canberra his only engagement planned so far.

The seminar at which Bill Welsh is to speak is being organised by the ACT Branch of the Association. It's to be held at the National Library of Australia on 7 and 8 December. Other speakers will include Harrison Bryan (Director General, NLA) and many others.

Conceived as a top-level study, the seminar will look at topics such as science and technology information policy; the roles of the information industry, libraries, and government; the place of data communications and information services, etc. More details will be published in coming issues of *Incite*.

Peter Clayton

LAST FILM SEARCH

A RADICAL DRIVE to locate Australia's films of the past for preservation, is about to be launched by the National Library of Australia.

The Last Film Search is being sponsored by a consortium of private companies and government agencies and is expected to continue for five years.

The drive will be launched officially by the major sponsor, Kodak (Australasia) Pty Ltd, in Melbourne on 20 October.

It will enable the Library's National Film Archive to accelerate its search for early, unstable nitrate films before increasing age brings about their final decomposition.

The consortium of sponsors, which is providing \$100,000 for The Last Film Search, comprises: Kodak, The Utah Foundation, The

Australian Film Commission, Channel 7 Perth, The Greater Union Organisation, The New South Wales Film Corporation, The Queensland Film Corporation, and The Victorian Film Corporation.

The sponsorship will allow the engagement of project staff, headed by Sydney filmmaker Michael Cordell. Mr Cordell will travel throughout Australia, meeting organisations and individuals who hold early films and location material in 'forgotten' storage places.

The Officer-in-charge of the National Film Archive, Mr Mike Lynskey, said that 'No comparable scheme has been attempted in any other part of the world, but this is our last desperate effort to salvage Australia's film heritage. We are determined to find as many of Australia's early silent films as possible'.