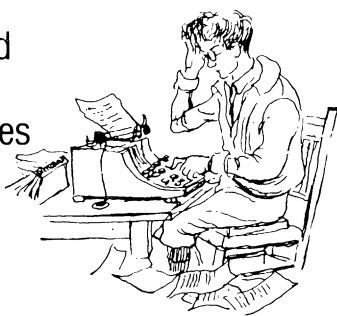


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Pushing in on copyright

The Copyright Amendment Act, 1980, came into force on 1 August 1981, accompanied by a chorus of misinformed anguish. This begins the first issue of a timely monthly journal devoted to copyright law in Australia.

Edited by Angela Bowne and David Catrines, *Copyright reporter* will provide news and analysis of changes in copyright law, news of inquiries into the law, scholarly and curricular articles and will provide notes on copyright cases here and overseas. It also promises to run copyright quizzes, and to carry detailed how-to-do-it articles on particular aspects of copyright.

The first, September 1981, issue deals with the inquiry into audio and video copying, the cable television inquiry, the amended act in brief and other topical matters.

Copyright reporter will have a quarterly cumulative index and an annual index. It costs \$90.00 (\$120.00 for two copies) per year and is available from GPO Box 3793, Sydney 2001, or DX 1135 Sydney. (ISSN 0725-0509).

Long, strachan and quartered?

Novels with a library setting or containing a vignette of a librarian are not that uncommon.

Irving Wallace's *The seven minutes* has a key character who is far from the stereotypical librarian, but a librarian nonetheless.

David Lodge's *Vatican roulette* (early printings were entitled *The British Museum falling down*) is largely set in and around the old lady of Great Russell Street.

Erle Stanley Gardner's *The case of the perched parrot*, Anthony Burgess' *The Doctor is sick*, Brendan Behan's *Borstal boy*, all have librarians or libraries in them, treated with humour, or with sympathy or at least neutrality.

Never have I come across a novel set in a library association, however, and reading Axel Banarsidass' *Death by association* was a eerie experience. The novel is a highly disguised depiction of real people and real events, written from the viewpoint of an editor struggling against the odds to produce a lively newsletter against a backdrop of a small but vociferous group demanding a heavy journal with a more cerebral approach.

In the early stages of the novel this unscrupulous lobby group floods the association's offices with 'scholarly' articles, does everything in its power to dry up the source of topical and general interest news and organises a massive campaign of critical letter writing.

This frenzied novel reaches a climax with the fire-bombing of the association headquarters by intellectual radicals disguised as sperannant cataloguers and the Wagnerian end of the editor and her most loyal columnist. This is not, however, a pessimistic

novel, and the Hegelian quality which it has about it sets it apart from the general run of contemporary writing.

It is powerful, utterly convincing and for sheer action makes the *Godfather* look like an AACOBS policy statement.

Death by association by Axel Banarsidass is published by Bungley and costs £7.48 (ISBN 0 70925 142 0).

The future of bibliography

In August last year a major conference on bibliographical services in Australia was held in Sydney, and covered such topics as the *Australian national bibliography*, Australian government publications, national union catalogues, maps, music, indexing services and retrospective national bibliography.

The conference, entitled 'Bibliographical Services to the Nation: the Next Decade', was held under the auspices of the AACOBS Working Party on Bibliography.

Contributors to the conference not only assessed the current bibliographical state of the nation, but also presented recommendations for the development of services during the 1980s.

The Working Party has been examining the proposals and they will no doubt have their impact on bibliographical authorities in due course.

The proceedings of the conference were published earlier this year by the National Library as *Networks Study no16* in its *Development of Resource Sharing Networks* series.

Bibliographical Services to the Nation: the Next Decade, edited by D.H. Borchardt and John Thawley, is available from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600. It costs \$9.75 including postage. (ISBN 0 642 99218 5).

Videodiscs: bright future?

RCA has stated that its investment in the videodisc will exceed the US\$130 million which it sank into colour television. Other companies around the world, it is estimated, may push worldwide commitment to over US\$1 billion.

What this massive corporate interest has produced so far, and what this may mean in the future is surveyed in *Video discs: the technology, the applications and the future*, published last year by Knowledge Industry Publications.

The development of videodiscs and the range of products available at least at the date of publication of this book (few readers will need to be reminded of the volatility of the video market place) is treated soberly and analytically.

The excitement of this technology is tempered with a realistic approach to the problems which it faces: economics, standardisation, competing technologies. Nor are the educational, business and information storage applications of videodiscs neglected.

There is some unevenness in the presentation of the work, reflecting the individuality of approach of the six contributors. It's nonetheless an excellent overview and assessment of this exciting technology.

Video discs, by Efreem Sigel, Mark Schubert and Paul F. Merrill, was published in 1980 by Knowledge Industry Publications, White Plains, New York. It costs US\$29.95. (ISBN 0 914236 56 3).

Missing indexes

In a disturbing article which some Australians may have missed, Diana Wyndham drew attention to deficiencies in the cover-

age of abstracts and indexes in *Ulrich's international periodicals directory*.

Starting with a sample of 31 journals in the health field, Diana compared *Ulrich's* references to indexes/abstracts for these journals with the lists of journals indexed in the indexing and abstracting services themselves.

As well as uncovering a number of errors, she found that *Ulrich's* had missed a total of 224 references to indexes which it covers, and another 191 references to indexes that it does not cover.

She concludes that librarians 'looking for indexing information should supplement information in *Ulrich's* with their own knowledge of the indexing services and use their imagination.'

This supports my old maxim: 'If the information is there, treat it with caution; if it isn't there, don't believe it', although I didn't particularly have *Ulrich's* in mind at the time.

Diana Wyndham's article, 'An evaluation of references to indexes and abstracts in *Ulrich's* 17th edition' can be found in *RQ*, a publication of the Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association, v20 no2, Winter 1980, pp155-159.

Rupert bares all

It is over five years since the publication of the first issue of *Rupert newsletter*, which in the span of 14 pages declared the objectives of the Rupert movement and shed considerable light on the then embryonic issue of freedom of information.

Since then Rupert has become the Rupert Public Interest Movement (RPIM) and has published books and leaflets on QANGOs, nuclear energy, toxic shock syndrome, the media, pharmaceuticals and, of course, on freedom of information.

Rupert's aim is to 'achieve broad structural reforms which make life more democratic for all citizens by giving them access to their own government, access to the media, access to the courts, access to corporations which influence their lives'.

Further information on Rupert and its publications, including a FOIL kit, is available from PO Box 346, Dickson, ACT 2602.

Early music monographs

We have received a plea for assistance from Stephen Page from the University of Queensland. Stephen is trying to locate and catalogue antiquarian monographs on music in Australian libraries.

As an initial step, all items listed in 'Printed writings on music', series BVI of *Repertoire internationale des sources musicales (RISM)*, have been looked up in NU-COM (including the card supplement) and those items for which Australian holdings were listed have been examined in various libraries. Other items have been found through shelf and catalogue searches in some libraries.

A computer database has been developed and a draft listing was produced and circulated in May this year.

Obviously there may be some fish which have slipped through Stephen's net, so he is anxious to hear from librarians who have 'hidden' items which his research has failed to locate.

Further information on the project and report forms for recording items (he stresses that full physical descriptions are not required since these will eventually be available through the Early Imprints Project) are available from him, Stephen Page, Music Department, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067. □