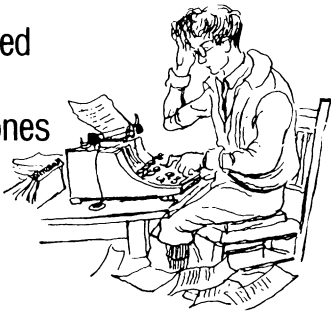


# THE SOURCE

edited  
and compiled  
by  
David J. Jones



## Enter the Brits

The well-established Gale series *Dictionary of literary biography* reached double digits last year and tackled predominantly British literature for the first time.

Volume 10, entitled *Modern British dramatists 1900-1945*, provides information in the familiar DLB format: lists of works, biographical notes, a portrait and other illustrations, an assessment of the dramatist's work and significance and a selective bibliography. Seventy-three British and Irish dramatists 'whose careers had reached their zenith prior to World War II' are covered.

The size of entries varies according to the perceived significance of the subject, not unnaturally, ranging from 4 pages for the smaller fry to 20 or more pages for giants such as Eliot. Each article is from the pen of a different contributor, residents from both sides of the Atlantic: some are well known, even to me, and many are elegant writers.

As appendixes we are offered essays on stage censorship (including one by G.B.S.), on stage lighting, on the theatre in the two wars and on two outstanding theatres – the Abbey Theatre in Dublin and the Royal Court Theatre. This two-volume set is very well presented, tightly edited and sturdily bound. It is certainly welcome to see the series venture into foreign climes.

*Modern British dramatists 1900-1945*, edited by Stanley Weintraub (*Dictionary of literary biography*, volume 10) was published last year by Gale Research. It costs US\$132 the two-volume set. (ISBN 0 8103 0937 8.)

## Videodisc and -tex

A useful digest of relatively current information on two topics of consuming contemporary interest is provided by the Innovative Technology Group of the National Library of Australia in their papers *Teletext and videotex* and *Videodisc*.

I say relatively current because even at the time of writing (early 1982) the authors of the papers were aware of the difficulties in presenting facts and figures against a background of such rapid change. Videotex will be less familiar to many readers than teletext, although some librarians have had the opportunity to sample the British Prestel system at first hand.

In Sydney teletext has become familiar to many since the introduction of Seventext, most visibly perhaps in Totalizator Agency Board agencies. Incidentally, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales have provided data for the Seventext service, and the latter institution has even installed a muted teletext receiver in its main reading room for staff and patron use.

The variety of videodisc developments chronicled realistically in the second paper is even more bewildering than the teletext/videotex evolution. If you want a sensible and down-to-earth assessment of these technologies, read these papers.

*Teletext and videotex* was prepared by Sandra Duffield; *Videodisc* was penned by Ian Royal. Copies of the papers are available from J. G. Daly, Secretary, Innovative Technology Group, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

## Title a disability

How misleading titles can be! At a superficial glance *Academic library facilities and services for the handicapped* might lead one to expect a discourse on, for example, how a university library building could be designed, or adapted, to facilitate access by disabled users. It is actually a directory of academic libraries in the United States giving brief details of accessibility in particular institutions, special equipment owned by them and any special services which they can provide.

It is fine if you want to know whether the Oklahoma Baptist University, for example, has grab bars in its rest rooms or whether the Tarlton Law Library has a talking calculator.

For the Australian user, the most interesting part of this work is the 40-page appendix; here are presented an overview (based on the questionnaire responses which form the basis of the whole work) of the provision of special services and levels of accessibility in US academic libraries, a brief bibliography and the addresses of regional libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped. The latter information you could glean from other sources.

*Academic library facilities and services for the handicapped* was edited by James L. Thomas and Carol H. Thomas and was published in 1981 by Oryx Press. It costs US\$55.00. (ISBN 0 912700 95 5)

## On the map

From now on it should be much easier for librarians with maps in their care to discover what they can add to their collections, or what they are missing, particularly with Australian materials.

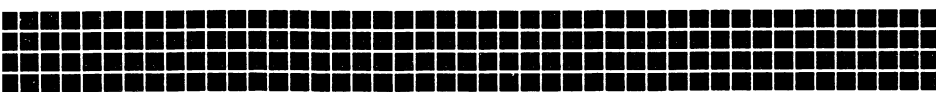
For the Australian Map Curators' Circle has published a very useful *Checklist of Australian map catalogues and indexes*. This publication, which was edited by Dorothy Prescott, Margaret Routley and Judith Wells, is intended to be of particular assistance to smaller libraries which do not, or cannot, carry adequate reference maps. One-hundred-and-thirty-seven items are listed and described – many are free on request from the respective supplier. There is a subject index and a full list of publishers and their addresses.

*Checklist of Australian map catalogues and indexes* was published last year by the Australian Map Curators' Circle. Copies can be obtained for \$4.00 post free from the Business Manager, AMCC, 9 Fortune Street, Box Hill, Vic 3129. (ISBN 0 9593900 1 4).

## Keep me posted

For its existence, the Source relies heavily upon what you, its readers, send it. Guides to collections, directories, bibliographies, publications of libraries of all kinds – this is all grist to the mill. When writing to the compiler about particular items, don't forget to include details of price and availability – this saves a lot of time.

Comments on the column are also welcome. Written contributions too, but expect some editing.



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