

# Australian pictures on line

THE PICTORIAL COLLECTION in the National Library of Australia comprises original works of art and photographs documenting Australian social history. There are approximately 33,000 original works, including oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and rare prints, and 300,000 photographs in the Collection, the subject matter of the pictures being predominantly Australian; most of the original works were executed in the 19th Century.

Use of the Collection, especially by authors and publishers, has increased so dramatically over the last few years that the librarians and library officer spend most of their time servicing reference enquiries, with the result that no progress can be made in cataloguing the original works. Approximately fifty percent remain uncatalogued and therefore not readily accessible to users.

When a team of Task Force assistants was offered to the Section last year, it was decided to begin a project of entering Pictorial records onto the Australian Bibliographical Network database. Under the supervision of the Pictorial Section librarians the Task Force staff made interim records on ABN using the information available on accession sheets. All major decisions were made in consultation with the staff of the Cataloguing Section of the Library and the ABN Office.

AACR II and other standard cataloguing tools were used as a guide, although it was discovered that many problems could not be solved by reference to printed sources.

Where innovations or changes to the approved standards were desirable, the ABN Standards Committee was consulted, and suggestions were usually approved. Librarians and curators from other institutions such as the Mitchell Library, the La Trobe Library and the Australian National Gallery were consulted.

By September 1982 interim records for all 600 oil paintings in the Collection had been entered. A Task Force librarian began to allot subject headings for the oil paintings. Library of Congress Subject Headings were found to be suitable for most needs of the Library's Pictorial Collection, bearing in mind its documentary purpose and the type of user demands.

The General Material Designation (GMD) chosen from AACR II for all works in the Collection was 'PICTURE' to cover paintings, watercolours, drawings, prints and photographs.

At the moment access points to records by means of the computer are as follows:

- Unique number
- Artist
- Key words in title
- Added artist entries

Series and Subjects will be searchable when the records are raised to full catalogu-

ing status; approval has been given by the ABN Standards Committee. A non-books screen will be available shortly, at which time the entry of full records will begin.

It is hoped that eventually the system will be enhanced so that the records can be searched on Geographic Area Code, Date, Physical description, and Key words in notes.

It is possible to give information on provenance, price, vendor, donor and inscriptions in the various notes fields. The National Library chooses not to do this - full details are kept in the Accession Registers which are in book form.

Over 1000 Pictorial records have now been entered onto the database, and are searchable by ABN users all over Australia. The works include oil paintings, watercolours, drawings, photographs and a few prints.

This is seen as a major step forward in the sharing of the Library's unique and priceless historical art collection. The project paves the way for other libraries and art galleries throughout Australia to add their records to the database so that the nation's pictorial resources may be available to all.

If you have access to an ABN terminal you could call up some of the records we have entered (as interims only at this stage) by using the following record numbers:

f r abn 8261075, abn 82086032,  
abn 8317488, abn 82082965

*Barbara Perry*  
Pictorial Librarian

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## Maria Gemenis Award

THE UNTIMELY death of Maria Gemenis was reported in *InCite* earlier this year. Because of her significant contribution to Special Librarianship, the LAA NSW Special Libraries Sectional Group has created an annual award to perpetuate Maria's work.

A trust fund, independent of LAA funding, is being set up to establish the award, which will be made annually. If you would like to contribute, send your donation to NSW Special Libraries Sectional Group, c/- Jenny Adams, Technical Information Manager, Unilever, Australia Ltd., PO Box 9, Balmain NSW 2041.

The award will be presented at City Tattersalls Club, Pitt St, Sydney on July 5 1983. Nominations for the award are now being called for but should reach the above address by June 10.

### Maria Gemenis Award guidelines

This award is to be known as the Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship.

The award has been established in memory of Maria Gemenis, whose death on February 1, 1983 was a sad loss to Special Librarians. Maria worked tirelessly to promote librarianship. She served on many other library committees, but it is for her work for Specials that this award has been created. Maria did much to gain recognition for Special Librarians, both within the LAA and in the eyes of the general public. She was concerned with the isolation of Special Librarians and did much to alleviate it.

The award has been established to encourage members of the Special Libraries Section in NSW to contribute to section activities and to continue the work which Maria so actively carried out.

The award will be made annually. It will consist of a perpetual plaque, to be hung in the recipient's library for a year. In addition, individual recipients will receive miniature plaques individually engraved at the time of presentation.

The award will be publicised in both *InCite* and *ASLN* (January and March issues) and nominations will be received up to 30 April each year (unless otherwise specified by the Committee).

### Rules of Nomination

1. Only members of the LAA Special Libraries Section NSW Group may be nominated.
2. No current member of the NSW Special Libraries Sectional Group Committee may be nominated.
3. Each nominee must have a proposer and seconder, with the consent of the nominee.
4. The proposer and seconder must submit a brief resume, in writing, about the nominee and send it to the Maria Gemenis Award at the address nominated in the Call for Nominations.
5. The decision of the Committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. The presentation of the award will be reported in the September issue of *ASLN* (or nearest issue to date after presentation) and will include a photograph and the resume of the recipient.
7. Nominations should be reported in *InCite* and June *ASLN*.

### Award criteria

The award will be made to a person who has made a significant contribution in the following areas:

1. Willingness to share professional expertise.
2. Breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation.
3. Successful promotion of the library/information service, achieving outstanding recognition from their parent organisation.