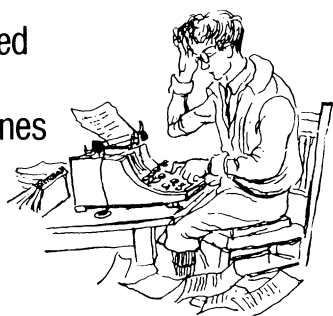


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



What's Dixson with an 's'

As part of his Litt.B. at the University of New England, Karl Schmude, the University's Deputy Librarian, prepared a historical study of his own library. In this he traces the Dixson from 1938, its year of establishment, to 1973. The developments depicted are partly peculiar to New England – the servicing of external studies, for example – and partly microcosmic – such as the impact of changes in government education policy, and technological innovation. His thesis offers a rare in-depth look into the history of an Australian university library.

Copies of *The development of an Australian academic library: Dixson Library, University of New England, 1938-1973* by Karl Schmude (unpublished Litt.B. thesis) are available from The Secretary, Dixson Library, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351. The price is \$15.00 including postage.

Australian AV

The ninth edition of the *Australian audio-visual reference book* is the biggest and probably the fullest yet. Published on 1st April (why do people run the gauntlet of risibility (doing serious things on that day?) it is the only listing of 'in-print' Australian films and filmstrips, videotapes, sound recordings, slide sets, charts and overhead transparencies with any degree of comprehensiveness.

There are the usual features: software listed by title and subject, brand names and agents, suppliers' names and addresses, and

a useful directory section. The (undeclared) emphasis is upon educational media, rather than upon entertainment (look in vain for Alvin Purple or Mad Max) and even some educational media are relatively neglected – microforms, for example. Even the *Sydney Morning Herald* on film isn't listed, let alone *Australian Playboy* on microfiche. The scope of the work, and any intentional limitations, should really be spelt out in this otherwise excellent reference work.

Copies of *Australian audio-visual reference book*, ninth edition, are available from D. W. Thorpe Pty Ltd, 384 Spencer Street, Melbourne, Vic 3003. It costs \$25.00. (ISSN 0311-323X; misprinted ISBN).

Rare treat

Occasionally a review copy lands in my tray on a subject so far out of my field that I must throw myself on the mercies of friends and colleagues. Such a work is *Incunabula, Hebraica and Judaica*, and Tom D'Arcy-Burke, formerly of the Rare Books and Special Collections of the State Library of New South Wales, has this to say about it:

"In 1977 Jacob M. Lowy, a wealthy, determined and well-informed collector of Jewish and Hebrew literature, presented over two thousand of his books to the National Library of Canada. A full, scholarly catalogue of the collection is promised for the near future.

Meanwhile, this handsome volume commemorates an exhibition, held in 1981, of 150 older or rarer items from the collection. It is generously illustrated and the matt finish of the paper avoids that suggestion of glossiness so frequent in coloured reproductions of illuminations. The seven Latin and twenty-three Hebrew incunabula are the subject of the usual special indexes and, for the exhibition as a whole, there are chronological, geographical, author and title indexes, a list of manuscripts, and a fascinating list of the languages, no fewer than twenty-eight, upon which the books in the exhibition have in various ways impinged.

This is not a book which many libraries will need, but it does give the studious novice a fair inkling of the vast scope of Jewish and Hebrew studies and, to the more casual reader, a wholesome reminder of the pervasiveness, pertinacity and importance of

our Hebrew inheritance.

The introduction opens with the words: 'The Hebrew Bible is the fundamental literary work of Western civilization'. It would be difficult, I think, for a Christian, a secularist or an ardent Hellenophile to deny this, quite apart from whether any form of Judaism or of Christianity is 'the true religion'. The Hebrew culture has a *continuous* life since Abraham and is therefore far older than any other culture west of India. Yet, apart from the fact that the Old Testament was written (mainly) in Hebrew, most of us know far too little about it. Would you, for instance, dare to ask the next twenty readers in your library: 'What is the Talmud?' And do you, the librarian, know that there are two Talmuds anyway, the Palestinian and the Babylonian?

Regrettably the work does not include a bibliography of modern secondary authorities (apart from references given for the incunabula), but this will no doubt form part of the major catalogue, to which I look forward with great interest."

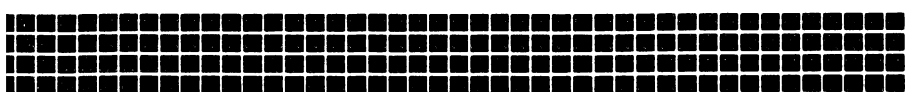
Incunabula, Hebraica and Judaica was published by the National Library of Canada in 1981. It costs C\$23.50 in Canada and C\$28.20 elsewhere. (ISBN 0 660 50933 4).

Here's health

The second edition of *Union list of journals held in Schedule V, II and III hospitals, Health Dept. and other health libraries in NSW* was issued earlier this year. It is a substantial (168 + 96 + 167 pages) publication, providing locations for many thousands of journals held in a diversity of libraries: from Arnotts to Wilcannia Community Health Centre. As an aid to resource sharing it will be invaluable.

This edition supersedes the first (1975) edition, supplements to that work and a draft second edition issued earlier this year. It has been compiled with care, but, as is in the nature of the beast, some errors will have intruded. It is wry to note that the Communicable Diseases Adviser doesn't seem to have an address to which to send communications.

Copies are available from the Editor, Ian R. Stubbin, Hospitals Librarian, Health Department Library, McKell Building, Rawson Place, Sydney, NSW 2000. (ISBN 0 7240 3218 5).



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