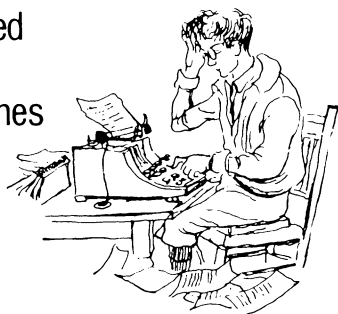


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Coals to Newcastle

Two products of the recently reinvigorated publishing programme of the Newcastle Region Public Library deal, not entirely unexpectedly, with mining in the region. No 9 in the series Newcastle History Monographs is J. W. Turner's *Coal mining in Newcastle, 1801-1900*, a well-produced 180-page hardback.

This is the result of 20-odd years study and sustained interest, and it still reads well. It is well footnoted, has a useful bibliography and is excellently indexed. Some of the illustrations look a bit washed out and the look of the page could have been more stylish — and more expensive.

As it is, this work is a must for any collection of NSWiana and jolly good value at \$9, or around the cost of ten tons of coal in 1836. No 10 in the same series is J. G. Lowndes' brief biography of James Fletcher, whose fourteen-foot-six carrara marble statue atop a granite plinth still graces Watt Street, Newcastle. An activist miner, later a mine manager and leader in the quest for improved conditions, Fletcher later still became an M.P. and, appropriately enough, was for a time Minister for Mines. Lowndes traces all this, and more, in the active life of a relatively neglected figure.

J. W. Turner's *Coal mining in Newcastle, 1801-1900* (Newcastle History Monographs

No 9) costs \$9 (ISBN 0 9599385 9 1). J. G. Lowndes' *James Fletcher, the miners' advocate* (Newcastle History Monographs No 10) costs \$3.50 (ISBN 0 9599385 8 3). Both are available from the Newcastle Region Public Library, PO Box 489, Newcastle, NSW 2300.

Architectural sources

Students and researchers involved in architectural history will find plenty of sources listed in a very helpful bibliography published by the Libraries Board of South Australia in 1981. Entitled, rather prosaically but nonetheless accurately, *18th and 19th century architecture books and serials in South Australia: a bibliography and research guide*, this 130-page work should prove useful even outside South Australia, as many of the items listed are available in other states, and the relevance of much of the material extends far beyond the borders of this state. South Australian library locations are given for most items, and periodical articles as well as monographs are included.

Donald Leslie Johnson and Maureen S. Fallon are responsible for *18th and 19th century architecture books and serials in South Australia*, and copies are available from the State Library of South Australia, Box 419, G.P.O., Adelaide, South Australia 5001. The price is \$12 (ISBN 0 7243 0070 8).

Copyright capers

Copyright does have its lighter moments. The current review of audio-visual copyright laws by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department has generated a large number of submissions from educational bodies, professional associations, producers of AV software, churches, motels and individual citizens. Copies of the submissions were deposited by the Department in a number of reference libraries around Australia for public display, in order to widen the debate and generally assist a full review.

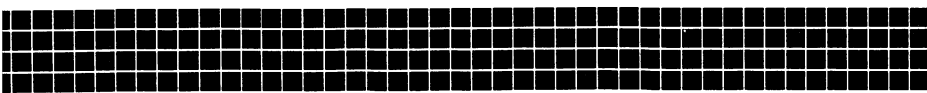
One body with a professional interest in copyright requested photocopies of some of the submissions from one of the reference libraries. At that point warning bells must have sounded in the mind of the librarian on duty. Were the submissions themselves copyright? Would copying the whole of a particular submission be a fair dealing nonetheless? Were the submissions published, within the meaning of the Act? Were they unpublished

manuscripts, to which stricter provisions apply? Was there an implicit licence to copy given by the mere sending of a submission to the Attorney-General's Department? Had prior copyright clearance been obtained by the Department to permit subsequent copying? Could the submissions be placed near the coin-operated copiers in that library, and the staff emulate the three wise monkeys?

A check with the Attorney-General's Department revealed that the submissions were not 'published' as such and that no special clearance with the originators of the submissions had been obtained. A number of interpretations were now possible, ranging from the conservative 'unpublished and not to be copied without the permission of the copyright owner' interpretation, to the liberal 'implied licence to copy' view. The library's legal advice inclined firmly to the conservative, this advice was followed and the request to copy the submissions, without some form of indemnity for the library against possible action by an aggrieved copyright owner (a nice touch that!) or the permission of the copyright owner for the submission to be copied, was politely refused.

It was interesting to note that the attitude adopted by the body with a professional interest in copyright and by certain other parties to this affair was on this occasion less conservative than that of the library involved and its legal advisers. Some faint suspicion that they were being got at or set up would have been understandable on some sides — copyright does seem to bring out the paranoid in us since the litigation of recent years. Certainly the irony of the situation was not lost on at least some of the participants in this little affair. If one has faith in Hegelian philosophy, then the outlook is reasonably cheerful on this particular issue. On the matter of the review of audio-visual copyright itself, the outcome is, to this writer's mind, anyone's guess.

Incidentally those of you who are still fumbling with an old copy of the Copyright Act 1968 and a copy of the amending Act which we were all so excited about almost a couple of years ago may not have realised that a reprint of the Act was published last year, incorporating all the amendments. It is available, of course, from the Australian Government Publishing Service and costs \$8.90 (AGPS cat. no. 82 0737 1).



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