



Quality of librarianship

I know I'll be criticised for being overly sensitive, defensive, and all the rest of it, but I cannot allow Barbara Jones's comment about teacher-librarians to pass unchallenged (*InCite*, 25 February 1983).

Ms Jones, an English librarian, spent a month last year at Colac Technical School and, apparently, visited other school and public libraries. She did not say which, or how many. After expressing herself 'green with envy' at the staffing levels of teacher-librarians in schools, a remark which I am sure was greeted with hollow laughter, she said 'I was rather dubious, at times, about the quality of librarianship I observed'. The only substantiation advanced for this remarkable slur on a dedicated body of professional teacher-librarians is that 'in Victoria I gained the impression that these (research) skills are taught on an ad hoc basis or integrated into subject teaching'. Many people think that teaching library and research skills related to students' real information needs is a much more effective method than formal 'library lessons' – 'OK, let's start at the beginning of Dewey'.

Other than that, I am at a loss to know what Ms Jones was dubious about. I would like to invite Ms Jones, with all the kindness and friendliness that she says she found here, to explain her incredibly gratuitous insult.

John Cook,
Canberra.

Mrs Jean Burnside

Jean Burnside retired from the position of Consultant to Mannings at the end of January.

As a senior figure for many years in the field of Australian library supply, Jean has gained friends in generous measure in the library and publishing worlds, both for her personality and for the unquestioned professionalism which she has brought to a demanding field. Mannings have been extraordinarily fortunate in having the benefit of her advice and unequalled experience. We would like to think that the Company is, and will continue to be, a tribute to her.

The Board and staff join in wishing Jean well for the future, as will her many friends outside the Company.

N.R. Carson
Chairman, Board of Directors

China Library Study Tour

PLANNING FOR the Association's Second China Library Study Tour is well advanced and has received the backing of the Department of Foreign Affairs – Australia: China Council and the China Society of Library Science.

The details which follow may change slightly as a result of negotiations at present in hand. Any member of the Association interested in joining the study tour should forward their name and address to 'China Tour', LAA Headquarters before March 28.

It is anticipated the tour will visit China for three weeks with a short stay in Hong Kong, departing from Sydney in late November for return pre-Christmas 1983.

The cost is expected to be around \$2875 which will include air travel to and from and accommodation in Hong Kong; travel to, within and from China as well as meals and accommodation.

The itinerary is planned to include: Guangzhou – Hangzhou – Shanghai – Qufu – Jinan – Tianjin – Beijing – Wuhan – Kong Kong.

An active and interesting series of professional visits and discussion is planned. These will be supported by cultural activities; visits to historical sites and opportunities to observe Chinese life and customs.

The size of the delegation will be 25–26 and to be eligible you are required to hold current membership of the LAA or be travelling with such a person.

Eligible applicants are especially requested from the special library sphere and from Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory to ensure national representation. This does not preclude applicants from the eastern states.

If you are interested in joining the group please provide the following details:

1. Full name and title.
2. Address to which all correspondence should be forwarded.
3. Date of birth.
4. Qualifications.
5. Present and previous library or related experience.
6. Nationality.
7. Any library or information-related interests that would benefit the delegation.
8. Any other special skills or knowledge that might benefit the delegation.
9. Do you wish to travel accompanied? If so would your companion be an LAA member? Regardless, please provide similar details for your companion.
10. Health. Should you suffer from any illness, please discuss your condition with your physician prior to application. You are reminded that the programme in China could be strenuous.

N.B. All information provided will be treated strictly confidentially.

Forward applications to Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street Ultimo, NSW 2007.

John Barclay

National Convenor
Library Association of Australia
China Library Study Tour



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Cartography for connoisseurs

IF YOU are planning to visit London during this year, don't miss the exhibition at the British Library – 'The Mirror of the World: antiquarian maps'.

This exhibition of antiquarian maps, atlases and globes, examples of the most interesting items acquired by the British Library Map Library during the last fifteen years, has just opened in the Map Gallery, Great Russell Street, London WC1, and runs until December 31.

Among the many remarkable exhibits are:

- a unique woodcut map of the world (c1562) by the Italian Giacomo di Gastaldi. It shows the New World discoveries – and the great southern continent *terra incognita*, illustrated with such unlikely inhabitants for that part of the world as alligators and crickets!
- the nautically minded will especially enjoy a chart of the East Indies printed on vellum by Pieter Goos (c1681), which bears the markings made during a sea voyage tracing the actual route taken
- a nineteenth-century educational globe, which is dissected to form a 3D jigsaw puzzle

There are more than two million maps, current and non-current, in the holdings of the British Library Map Library and the collection is used for many different types of research as well as map history itself.

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