

OBITUARY

SIR PETER CRISP, 1912-1984

It was with sadness that members of the library world learned of the death of Sir Peter Crisp on 14 February, 1984.

Sir Peter Crisp was a distinguished Tasmanian lawyer and Judge who made a significant contribution to society. This is not, however, the place to comment on his legal career, which included periods during which he served Tasmania variously as Crown Prosecutor, the Crown Solicitor, the Solicitor General and finally Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.

One of the many ways in which he served the citizens of Tasmania was through his chairmanship of the State Library Board from 1956 to 1977.

Nationally he was pleased to serve as a member of the Interim Council of the Museum of Australia, and of the Council of the National Library. He was chairman of the latter Council from 1971. He was President of the Library Association from 1963-66 and was awarded its Diamond Barry Award in 1976. This award is made infrequently and is restricted to distinguished laymen.

Sir Peter's most recent and perhaps most significant contribution to the advancement of libraries flowed from his service to the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services, including a period of ten years as its chairman from 1973 to his recent death.

His background inevitably affected his style. For example his manner while chairing AACOBs could, I believe, quite properly be described as judicial, firm but fair and patient, controlling the loquacious and encouraging the timid. His insistence on a measure of formality in the proceedings of the Council, where he generally insisted on its Councillors standing while speaking, served to restrict the arrulous and to improve the audibility of comments. He could do little to improve the quality of the comment except to restrict the irrelevant. On the other hand his willingness to assist the less coherent to make their point by summarizing it to the meeting and his willingness to assist with the sharpening of the form of a resolution added much to the success of our meetings.

Never intrusive and always regarding himself as a facilitator rather than a direction setter, he was nevertheless generous with the time he gave to AACOBs and its members. Until the last he found time to attend the meetings of Standing Committee where his

The latest Cook book



John Cook (right) hands a copy of *Readings in School Librarianship* to Bob Lavender, principal of Ultimo Public School. Standing behind them enjoying the proceedings is LAA president Warren Horton. Photograph by Photographis

A pleasingly apt touch to the launching of John Cook's *Readings in Australian Librarianship III: School Librarianship* was the venue. The launching took place in the very pleasant school library at Ultimo Public School, which is just across the way from the LAA.

The school's principal, Mr Bob Lavender was as enthused as LAA staff at the idea of holding the launching at the school, and it proved to be a very enjoyable function indeed,

well attended by many people from the worlds of education and librarianship.

The book, which contains some of the most significant papers on school librarianship published by the LAA in the past twenty years is available from LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007 and costs \$22.00, with the special LAA members' price of \$15.00. Postage is \$3.00. Copies are also available through Mannings or Bennetts.

advice was always available and invariably invaluable. Privately he was always available to comment helpfully and thoughtfully on an idea or a draft, placing his judicial mind at the disposal of a correspondent.

Australian libraries are deeply indebted to a number of laymen who have lent their status to the support of libraries, used their persuasive powers to advance the cause of libraries or shared their visions of libraries with the community. Sir Peter was such a layman, and one who was deeply committed to the principle of free public libraries. He recognized the dangers in which they now stand and constantly warned of these. Such laymen bring an impartiality in advancing the cause of libraries which no librarian can. Sir Peter may be numbered among this select company.

Sir Peter was a deep-water sailor, undertaking a number of voyages through the years. AACOBs will miss his guiding hand on its tiller. His friends in the profession will miss him.

Allan Horton

Friends of the library

THE LIBRARY Society, the recently-formed group of 'friends' of the NSW State Library, held its first function in February. This was the inaugural Dulcie Stretton lecture on the Cook anniversary, given before an audience of more than 300 people in the Galleries at the NSW State Library.

The guest speaker was Professor Greg Denning, who gave a new perspective on the death of Captain Cook. Professor Denning believes that the native customs, which traditionally change according to the months of the year, were responsible for the drastic

change in attitude of the Polynesians, who had initially shown an enthusiastic and lavish welcome for Cook's ships and crew.

The Library Society plans to offer 'friends' many benefits, including previews of major exhibitions, lectures on many topics of Australian history, book collecting etc, special interest tours and other functions. Similar societies exist for some of the world's other major libraries, such as the British Library, the New York Public Library and the Bibliotheque Nationale.

To find out more, contact the Executive Director, The Library Society, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000.

T.J. Allen to speak at Lasie Seminar



'Industry, Innovative Technology and Information' is the topical theme for the Lasie Seminar to be held at the Manly Pacific from June 6-8.

The featured speaker will be Professor Thomas J. Allen, Professor of Organizational Psychology and Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tom Allen is well known among librarians, as well as to engineers, scientists and managers, for his work on communication, on innovation in industry and on technology transfer. He is widely consulted by governments and firms in Europe and Japan as well as in the United States.

At the Lasie seminar, he will speak about the effects of innovative technology on industry and on what makes for usable industrial research. He will also be available to the Lasie audience in a question and answer session which will range extensively over his knowledge of industrial innovation in countries as various as Sweden, Japan and Ireland, and in large and small firms.

Other seminar speakers will include representatives of top management and information specialists from multi-national and Australian companies, and from CSIRO, universities and federal government departments.

More information available from Mr Arne Pedersen, Lasie's Executive Secretary, Box 602, Lane Cove, NSW 2066, or phone (02) 498 7577 or (02) 427 2181.