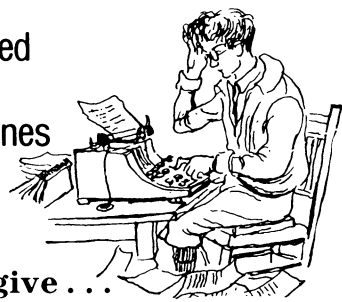


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Better to give . . .

Sometimes it does pay to look a gift horse in the mouth. In a recent incident a well-known antique dealer went to a museum and said that his grandfather had 'lent' the museum a large number of objects which he, the antique dealer, could identify by walking around the museum. The dealer would now like them back!

Unfortunately the museum had no receipts, no acquisition records, and no proof that the dealer was not completely correct in his assertion. The matter was settled reasonably amicably with the dealer reclaiming one or two items. It could have been worse. And of course the same difficulty could confront many libraries. Administrators will receive lucid and sensible guidance from M. L. Eutick and A. J. Cordato's rather prosaically titled but far from stodgy *The problem of obtaining proper legal title to objects acquired by museums, historical societies, art galleries and archives*.

This 25-page booklet was published jointly by the Museums Association of Australia (NSW Branch) and the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1983. 'Old lax practices should cease' conclude the co-authors. The problems are certainly largely avoidable, and a number of precautions are outlined. An appendix contains forms of words for the acknowledgement of gifts and for a deed of gift. One hopes that reclaiming gifts of ancestors from institutions improvident enough not to maintain impeccable donation registers will not become a national sport. But if it does, this little book may help.

The problem . . . by M. L. Eutick and A. J. Cordato costs \$4.50 and is available from the MAA (NSW Branch), c/o Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, 659 Harris Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007. (0 9596832 8 3).

Aboriginal Canadians

The ninth report on research collections in Canada published by the National Library of Canada focuses upon the native peoples of that country and the resources for studying them.

The bulk of this work, which was prepared by Nora T. Corley, is a detailed library by library examination of native studies collections in all parts of Canada, partly compiled from questionnaire responses. Corley did however personally investigate 65 of the 300 or so institutions, and their entries are consequently fuller and probably more consistent. There is an excellent introduction, which summarises the distinctions between tribes, provides definitions of terms used when writing about native peoples (Inuit, Métis, Indian and so on) and briefly surveys native literature and studies.

There is also a very extensive bibliography and union list of periodicals about native peoples, and a well-organised bibliography of reference works. Inserted in the volume is a map from the *National atlas of Canada* showing the distribution of native peoples and their languages. This work has English and French text, presented tête-bêche.

Resources for native peoples studies by Nora T. Corley (Research Collections in Canadian Libraries, Special Studies, 9) was published by the National Library of Canada in 1984. It costs C\$24.50 in Canada, C\$29.40 elsewhere. (ISBN 0 660 52676 X)

Dramatic progress

The 'growing reputation of the Australian playwright abroad' and the growth of the theatre industry in Australia are said to have prompted production of a small but very useful booklet from Currency Press.

A guide to Australian drama and theatre, more accurately described by its subtitle *Bibliography of Australian books in print 1984* perhaps, covers in a span of forty pages what's now available and from whom, how many acts, how many characters. A few lines describe the significance of the play, what the play is about and in some cases whether it is suitable for student performance. A separate section is devoted to plays for young audiences and performers. Appended are brief lists of critical, historical and biographical works on the Australian stage and a number of school texts. Those building a small drama collection will find the final offering in this helpful little work particularly welcome: it is a

select list of 40 major works chosen by Margaret Williams and Peter Fitzpatrick.

The publishers hope to produce this guide every two years, and will supply a copy to any library which requests it for a mere \$2.50 postage and handling. *A guide to Australian drama and theatre* is published by Currency Press, PO Box 452, Paddington, NSW 2021. (ISSN 0813-6122).

. . . and more words on plays

The Campbell Howard Collection at the University of New England consists of over 300 Australian plays in manuscript form produced between 1920 and the mid fifties.

In 1968 the UNE Library produced a checklist of the Collection, and in 1984 came a second, revised and enlarged edition of that checklist. Entries are arranged by playwright, and performance details (if ever performed) are given. There is a title index.

Copies of the checklist, which is entitled *Australian plays in manuscript: a checklist of the Campbell Howard Collection held in the Dixon Library, University of New England*, are available from the Secretary, Dixon Library, UNE, Armidale, NSW 2351. The price is \$3.00 including postage. (ISBN 0 85834 418 1).

Frontiers of disability

'Regardless of the political ideology of the particular nation represented, the common ground of this dedicated group of professionals is the dissemination of the printed word.' So writes Bruce Massis, editor of *Library service for the blind and physically handicapped: an international approach*. Volume two of this work, which presents some of the papers at the 45th IFLA General Conference (1979) and the 47th Conference (1981), was published in 1982 by Saur. We are introduced to the Soviet approach to library services to the blind; we read some brief notes on the use of appropriate typography for readers with impaired vision; there is a call for sweeping programmes for library services to the handicapped; other papers deal with East German approaches, international exchange of bibliographic information on materials for the blind, an American cassette library and automated circulation systems for libraries serving the handicapped.

Library service for the blind, published in 1982 by K.G. Saur costs DM32.00 and is no 23 in the IFLA Publications series. (ISBN 3 598 20385 3.)

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