

LIAA or ALIA

In Darwin it was resolved that the Association should become the Library and Information Association of Australia (LIAA).

However it is my strong view that the name should be the *Australian* Library and Information Association (ALIA). This view is shared by most of the SA Branch Council, at least one member of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee and at least one other State Branch Council.

We are first and foremost a *national* association and this should be emphasised in our name, as almost every other library association overseas has chosen to do. The one major exception is the Library Association (UK) which is, I understand, moving to become the Library and Information Association (LIA).

In summary the advantages of ALIA are:

1. It emphasises that we are national and Australian
2. It provides a usable acronym
3. It reduces the emphasis on 'Library' without disturbing its priority
4. It is shorter by one word
5. It cannot be confused with the ALA (American Library Association) which I assume is the reason why the Australian Institute of Librarians became the Library Association of Australia rather than the Australian Library Association.

If the American Association decides to incorporate 'Information' in its title in due course that would be its problem.

The *only* advantage of Library and Information Association of Australia that has been put to me is that it is easier to find in the telephone directory. This is a trivial basis for the determination of the sequence of the name our Association will probably bear for at least another fifty years. The difficulty is easily overcome by a supplementary entry in the directory.

I am therefore suggesting

1. That Branch Councils inform the Executive Director of their preference.
2. That National Section committees inform the Executive Director of their preference.
3. That regional and special interest group committees inform the Executive Director of their preference.
4. That the President through *InCite* request expressions of opinion from the membership at large incorporating the case presented above.
5. That the final decision on the name change be deferred until the next meeting of General Council.

The delay proposed will not undermine progress in implementing the other more fundamental recommendation adopted from the Corporate Plan and Review. This could have been a difficulty if the name of the Association had been subjected to greater debate earlier.

1988 will be a year when we celebrate Australia. It would be appropriate if our Association, with its new direction, adds its national name to that celebration other than as the afterthought represented in Library and Information Association of Australia.

Alan Bundy
President (SA)

Re creation

In your correspondence column during 1985 and now again in *The Source*, 18 July 1986 we have been given names and addresses to write to for information opposing creation science.

To help redress this apparent imbalance of information the address of the Creation Science Foundation is Box 302, Sunnybank, 4109. The magazine *Creation: Ex Nihilo* (please note this is the new full title) the current US, UK and Australian creation science books, cassettes and videos can be obtained from this address. Lists of publications are available on request.

Librarians who have only read about creation science through the writings of critics will be surprised to discover on reading, listening or looking at the materials firsthand that they do not proselytize but present a valid, non-evolutionary interpretation of the origins of the universe, earth and man.

Incidentally Dr Martin Bridgstock in his letter 25 October 1985 advised that he would supply copies of his research showing that information in the magazine *Creation: Ex Nihilo* has a 90% error rate. To date he has not got around to replying to a request from this correspondent for this information.

Susan Robertson

Harold Bonny

It is not really very long since Australian librarians turned their attention overseas, and began to produce instant international experts. There have been some notable exceptions to this — people whose names are well known around the world. One of these was the late Harold Bonny, whose contributions to librarianship in the developing world were due to his having worked and lived in these Third World countries, rather than having merely been a short-term consultant without adequate experience of the different cultural environments.

My own work in Afghanistan which began at the end of the 1960s was made much easier by the memories which Harold had left behind him. This was true of other countries also where overseas colleagues well remembered his living amongst them and his efforts to bring library services to the people. I am now collecting material for a biographical appreciation of his work as a pioneer, and appeal to readers to send me any recollections of Harold whether in this country or abroad. I would also welcome copies of letters, reports, etc., relating to him. All contributions will be acknowledged, and confidentiality will be assured if requested.

Edward R. Reid-Smith
PO Box 74
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Source review

Thank you, David Jones, for your comment in the 'Source' review of 18 July 1986 on the format of Truda Olson's *Phillip Adams: a reference guide to his life and work*, second in the Bibliographical Study Series published by RMIT Department of Information Services.

We would *love* to have the finances to publish our series in a more attractive and hence pricier format.

If you keep up the publicity and the order roll in, maybe we will be able to afford to have future items in the series typeset. In the meantime, our version of the old adage goes 'Don't judge a book by its format!'

Barbara Arnold
(Publications Committee, Department of Information Services, RMIT)

(Improvements in format need not cost more — most printers are only too happy to discuss economic and efficient methods of book production. B.P.)

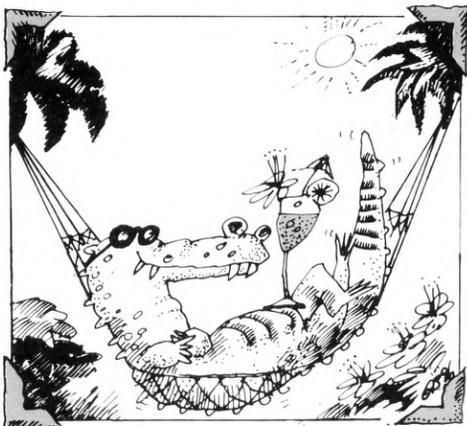
Children's reviews

We have been pleased to see *InCite* initiate, in recent years, a policy of publishing reviews of recent children's books *by children* to coincide with the year's Awards. In this way, *InCite* has been helping to shape a climate of opinion in which children's own ideas about the books written for them can be taken more seriously than has been the case until the last few years.

Reviews written by children and teenagers are not without their problems, of course, but on the whole these are not very different in kind from the problems of subjectivity and personal bias in the adult reviewer. But when children in the pre-school age-range are employed as reviewers, then more intractable difficulties arise, and some of these are exemplified in the review of four board books composed by 'Christopher', aged 7½ months, and his nanny *Melissa* (*InCite*, 1 August 1986, p. 12).

Unless young Christopher is extremely advanced for his age, we assume that he is not yet able to speak. Thus his reactions to books

bring back that Darwin feelin'
bring back that Darwin feelin' . . .



now it's gone, gone,
gone. . .

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perhaps 'reactions' is to be preferred to 'opinions' for that very reason) must be preferred from purely non-verbal behaviour patterns. The interpretation of such behaviour by a watching adult is a tricky task, as we ourselves learned in several years of observation of a young child (see our *Prelude to Literacy*, published by Southern Illinois University Press in 1983). Especially when the adult knows the child well — as we presume Melissa knows Christopher — it is extremely easy to assume that one *knows* what the child is thinking or feeling when it lingers on one illustration, or wriggles uncomfortably when tending to a particular line of prose or verse. In fact, the adult can do no more than make an informed guess at the meaning of the child's reactions. Such guesses should never be stated as unqualified assertions that this is the child's opinion. And they should wherever possible be supported by the actual behavioural evidence (a wriggle, fixed gaze, inattention, or whatever) that constitutes the basis for the guess.

In the light of these principles, Melissa's representation of Christopher's reactions to the hard books under review is questionable, to say the least. We imagine that some indication

of distaste or lack of interest on the child's part lay behind statements such as 'Christopher was disappointed in the books', 'he found them slightly repetitious' and 'he was confused by the role models portrayed in *My Daddy* and *I Want My Mummy*'. But Melissa has gone far beyond this evidence, reading into it what looks suspiciously like her own, adult opinions. Most of us, reading books with a young child, naturally hope that the child's response will agree with our own (and indeed, we can so act as to bring that about!) but often it does not. Those who seek confirmation of this should examine Virginia Loew's 'Books and a Pre-Verbal Child' in *Orana* for 1975 (Volume 11, Nos 3 and 4), and Dorothy Butler's *Cushla and her Books* (Hodder, 1978), as well as our own work.

It may seem that we are making a great fuss about a trivial matter. Many readers of *InCite* may well consider the whole idea of a baby having a response to a book a ridiculous one. It is because we ourselves do not consider it ridiculous that we are writing this letter. As it stands, 'Melissa and Christopher's' review does the cause of child reviewers a serious disservice.

Hugh and Maureen Crago

Directory of Collection Strengths in Victorian Libraries

The Victorian Group of the Acquisitions Section has just launched this new publication.

The Directory is arranged in Survey order and contains some 300 entries covering 97 libraries throughout Victoria. The price is \$30 for non-members and \$20 for members and enquiries should be directed to Philip G. Kent, CSIRO Central Library, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne Vic 3002, (03) 418 7246.

Writing & Illustrating for Children September 27-28

Sponsored by the Children's Book Council, ACT Branch. Speakers will be Terry Denton, Nadia Wheatley, Morris Lurie, Sue Williams & Jane Covernton (Omnibus publishers) and Lynne Babbage (judge, book awards). Cost: \$10-\$20. Further information: Dr Belle Alderman, Liberal Studies, CCAE, PO Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616, (062) 52 2062 or Margaret Stone (062) 52 2312.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

The Board of Education has proposed that the present policy on Associate (professional) membership be changed by introducing a currency component for new applicants and widening eligibility criteria.

The proposals have been circulated to Divisions and other interested parties for comment. They have been endorsed by the Corporate Plan and Review Committee, and General Council will be considering them at its meeting on 21 and 22 November. They are outlined in a discussion paper prepared by the Board — *Professional membership: a review of Association policy*. Copies of the paper are available from Sue Phillips at the LAA Office, phone (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481.

Comments on the proposals should be forwarded to the Association by 21 October 1986.

Grand Prix at the Library

A group of librarians who attended the LAA continuing education seminar on Marketing Libraries were positively inspired to follow through the marketing plan devised there to promote libraries among the 18-35 age group by linking Australian Library Week and the Adelaide Grand Prix events. With Margaret Moxon of the Public Libraries Division as convenor, a Committee of librarians in public libraries, the State Library and the South Australian CAE was set up.

The group came up with several projects — some short term, some longer term — and are following these through. Some are proving difficult without some minimal funding, others are going ahead.

A poster has been designed and will be on sale at about one dollar — an attractive focus for SA library displays. The State Library Bookshop will have Grand Prix postcards and 1936 Adelaide Grand Prix photograph reproductions.

Input is welcomed from other librarians. Contact Margaret Moxon on (08) 332 8266.

Who's where

Anne Whyte, formerly Assistant Librarian — Technical Services at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, has recently taken up appointment as Acquisitions Librarian at Griffith University.

Veronica Sims, of Griffith University Library's Cataloguing Section, has been appointed to the post of Lending Services Librarian. Veronica worked for several years at the Queensland Institute of Technology Library in various positions, before going to QGU two years ago.

Bruce Edwards
Technical Services Librarian

Raeco have moved to new premises at 62 Atchison Street, St. Leonards (02) 439 2739.

Who's where

Don't forget to send details of staff changes, new appointments etc for listing in this column.

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