

THE SOURCE

David J. Jones



History — oral and otherwise

The Pioneering Forum on Australian Colonial Library History at Monash University in 1984 had a sequel in Canberra in the following year, shedding the 'colonial' tag, concentrating on this century and calling itself Forum on Australian Library History.

Papers from the Forum were published last year under the title *Australian library history*, and a fascinating potpourri it is. Fascinating insights into the Army Education Library Service during World War II, School of Arts libraries and their decline, Petherick with punches pulled, more on Morris Miller, some sidelights on Ida Leeson, and so on. Jean Whyte's useful paper on the Australian Institute of Librarians rounded off this excellent and varied Forum, the quality boding well for the next gathering of library historians.

Copies of *Australian library history*, edited by Peter Biskup and Maxine K. Rochester and published by Canberra College of Advanced Education, are available from the University Co-operative Bookshop, CCAE, PO Box 1 Belconnen, ACT 2616. The cost is \$12.80 including postage. (ISBN 0 0 858892 74 X)

What did Jesse Shera think about Maurice Tauber? What did Tauber have to say for himself? What did Luther Evans say about Joe McCarthy? Such questions are prompted by another remarkable publication from the American Library Association which lists oral history tapes of librarians held in a number of North American libraries.

Two hundred and five sets of tapes are described, with brief information on the subjects covered by the interviewees, names of librarians discussed, copyright and transcript

information. Many remarkable people, and presumably many remarkable reminiscences are represented.

A *directory of oral history tapes of librarians in the United States and Canada*, compiled by Doris Cruger Dale, was published earlier this year by the Library History Round Table, ALA, and cost US\$20.00. My review copy was supplied by Bennetts. (ISBN 0 8389 0443 2)

Bigger and better

The fourth edition of *Current British journals* covers 50% more titles than its predecessor, which appeared in 1982. This is more a sign of the intense activity of the UK Serials Group than of a recent burgeoning of the British serials scene.

Each entry contains frequency, publisher, pricing and ISSN — many entries also show circulation, and there are notes on the subject matter and size of some journals. Entries are arranged by the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), with a subject index to the classification to aid the uninitiated, and of course a full title index — very necessary if you want to find the *British journal for the history of science*, which is filed under 'DEER'! For the other 7498 entries which are as far as I can see all in their rightful place, the team which compiled this work deserve massive plaudits.

Current British journals, fourth edition, was published earlier this year by the British Library Document Supply Centre in association with the UK Serials Group. It costs £35.00 (£37.50 overseas) and can be obtained from the BL Publications Sales Unit, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BG. By the way, Document Supply Centre is the new name of the British Library Lending Division. (ISBN 0 7123 2025 3)

Another McLaren mammoth

In another of his characteristically hefty bibliographies, Ian F. McLaren focuses upon John Dunmore Lang, presenting a comprehensive guide to this 'turbulent Australian Scot'. In 387 pages McLaren covers works by and about Lang, including monographs, serial articles, newspaper items, memorials, manuscript collections and much more besides.

Ian F. McLaren's *John Dunmore Lang* was published in 1985 by the University of Melbourne Library and costs \$14.00. (ISBN 0 86839 690 7)

Bach to basics

Is it *timpani* if there is only one player? Should you spell out sharps and flats? What do you do if your printer doesn't have an umlaut? What should you (and conversely should you not) put in a concert programme or similar publication.

Harvey Mitchell, an editor, writer and broadcaster (and as a blurb has it a former managing director of the Pilharmonia [sic] orchestra) has put together a useful little pamphlet with the catchy title *Which Mr Bach?* This is a set of guidelines to 'help writers clearly identify musical works, composers, conductors and soloists in a style acceptable round the world'. He appends a list of frequently-performed composers, together with their dates. No pretensions to comprehensiveness (you really can't do without *Grove* if you want to verify names and dates of all the Bachs, or even Holst), but at least there are references to the major reference works. At \$10.00, for 27-pages worth, Mitchell's work may not seem cheap: but it is nicely-produced.

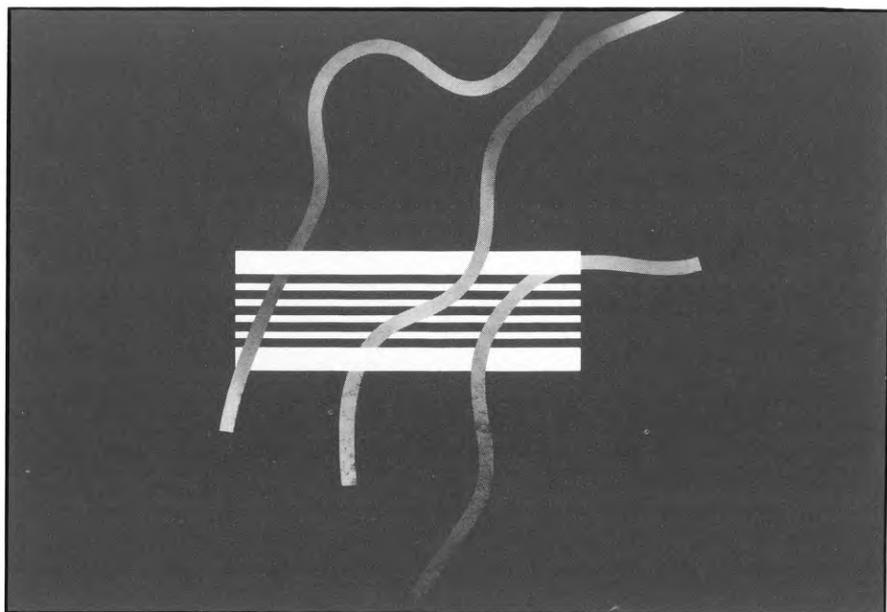
Which Mr Bach? by Harvey Mitchell was published in July 1986 by the Victorian Arts Centre Trust and is available from the Arts Centre Shop, 100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Vic 3004. (ISBN 0 7241 3981 8)

Who does what

Research in progress in most professions is frequently elusive (as is often the subject of the research work). In library and information science we are reasonably well served internationally by *Current research in library and information science* (the successor to *RADIALS bulletin*), a quarterly publication of the Library Association. From this derives *Current research for the information profession*, the 1984/85 edition of which was published last year.

This yearbook provides a very full abstract of 1,215 research projects under way around the world, ranging from mass deacidification at LC to missing books in Cornwall. Full information on researchers involved, and how to contact them, is provided. And there are excellent name and subject indexes.

Current research for the information profession 1984/85 was published in 1985 by the Library Association and costs £45.50 (£36.40 to LA members). (ISBN 0 85365 906 0)



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