

That encyclopaedia has a name...

All readers of *InCite* may now relax, the great search for a title for that encyclopaedia is now over. The Publications Board, at its meeting on 2 June, approved the editor's suggestion of *ALIAS: Australia's Library, Information and Archive Services: An Encyclopaedia of Practice and Practitioners*.

I am indebted to the handful of colleagues who wrote to me or telephoned with suggestions either for a title or for additions to the list of articles — and to the many others who, I am sure, had sleepless nights over the whole thing. Astonishingly for these times, I had overlooked the utility of the acronym, until one correspondent put me on the right track. I was particularly happy also to hit on an acronym that preserved mention of each of the three associated professions in the title — a *desideratum* advanced with cogent argument by yet another reader.

Moreover, there is a nice association between the title and the new name of the LAA. Indeed the mental insertion of an apostrophe before the S in ALIAS will serve as a cunning reminder of the proprietorship of the encyclopaedia.

The copy for volume I (AA-CA) was duly handed over on 30 June 1987. For those with a statistical bent, it comprised 116 separate articles by a total of 67 authors and comprehended some 83,000 words of text, 12,000 words of preliminaries (introduction, list of contributors etc) and 42 illustrations.

Volume Two

Volume Two is already well under way. Of the 15 invitations issued, all but one have been

accepted and 42 contributions are already in the editor's hands. This raises the real possibility of a shorter publication cycle than for volume I. Volume II will be the largest of the four volumes with an estimated text content of some 92,000 words, a correspondingly larger word count for subsidiaries and more illustrations. This is brought about by the desirability of a clean and simple break in the alphabetical sequence. By beginning volume III at LO it is possible to avoid having the substantial number of entries beginning with 'Library' split between two volumes.

I hasten to say that the invitation to suggest subjects for articles remains open. It would probably (or at the very least possibly) be a mistake to assume that I would be 'sure to have thought of' what seems to someone else to be an obvious inclusion.

Sign up for LO-Z

I would like to express my special appreciation of those correspondents who actually offered themselves as authors. Several of these offers were very thankfully accepted and, while the invitation list is closed for Volume II, except for extra articles that might be brought to my notice, the whole of the alphabet from LO to Z is still wide open. Do not hesitate.

Though I could scarcely be regarded as a disinterested (a word increasingly misused in all media today!) critic, I do believe that ALIAS will be found to be both attractive and useful. Do be a part of it by writing to me at 16 Asquith St, Oatley 2223 NSW or calling on (02) 570 5471.

Harrison Bryan

Harold White Fellowships in 1988

The life of Australian Prime Minister, Lord Bruce; the works of the English artist and author, William Blake; and a detailed study of place-name corruption on maps and charts of the 16th and 17th centuries are subjects for research by the three 1988 Harold White Fellows at the National Library of Australia.

This year there were 25 applications from Australia and overseas for fellowships. Fellowships have been awarded to Dr Heather Radi, of Sydney; to Mr William Richardson, of Adelaide; and to Professor Gerald Bentley, from Toronto, Canada. Each of the three Fellows will spend from three to four months at the National Library next year.

'I am delighted in the choice of this year's Harold White Fellows,' Mr Warren Horton the NLA's Director-General said. 'Each will follow research in an area where the Library has particular strengths: in maps, in publications relating to Australia that contain material by Blake; and the records and papers of prominent Australians associated with Lord Bruce.'

Dr Radi is preparing a biography of the Australian Prime Minister, Lord Bruce, and will

consult the National Library's holdings of the personal papers of his contemporaries, including Sir Earle Page and W.M. (Billy) Hughes.

Professor Bentley is one of the world's leading authorities on the artist and poet, William Blake. He is researching book illustration in England between 1660 and 1830, and will investigate publications relating to Australia and New Zealand which contain material by Blake or were influenced by him or his work.

The National Library's collection of Dutch, French, English, Portuguese and Spanish maps and accounts of voyages from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries will be studied by Mr Richardson. His previous work has dealt with the question of a possible Portuguese discovery of Australia, with arguments against the discovery based on examining place names and copyists' errors.

This is the fifth year that fellowships have been awarded to promote the National Library as a centre of scholarly activity and research. It is the third year the fellowships have been awarded under the name of the former National Librarian, Sir Harold White.

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