

THE SOURCE

by
David J. Jones



Peaceful viewing

To coincide with the International Year of Peace the State Film Library in New South Wales has produced a useful 45-page annotated listing of films and videos in their collection dealing with aspects of peace.

Taking the United Nations basic requirements for peace as a starting point has enabled the compiler to cover a wide range of topics, including war, the nuclear debate, environmental issues, religion and housing (including the John Howard squatter settlement near Lusaka). There is a short summary of each film or video.

International Year of Peace: a film and videocassette list for 1986 and beyond was published last year by the State Film Library, 1 Francis Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, and is gratis. (ISBN 0 7305 2951 1)

What's in a name?

'I'm Charley's Aunt from Brazil', the leading character in the well-known farce explains, 'Where the nuts come from.' It might just as well have been Barcelona, of course, or that little known central European kingdom Macadamia.

Such are toponyms, words which began as place names but which have passed into common usage. And a ton of toponyms are to be found in Nigel Viney's *A dictionary of toponyms*, published in 1986 by what is still known as the Library Association.

Next time you commit a solecism, think of the Athenian colonists of Soloi. When you put a copper in the poor box think of Cyprus. These and hundreds of other allusions, real

and perceived, are handled by Viney with aplomb, and make for fascinating dipping into, perhaps with serendipity (look it up).

Nigel Viney's *A dictionary of toponyms* was published last year by the Library Association and costs \$7.96 (ISBN 0 85365 747 5).

Blooming marvellous

Two consuming interests are brought together in Victor Crittenden's *A history of Australian gardening books*, published last year by Canberra College of Advanced Education.

The work started out as a list, and, as the author tells us, 'having listed the books, I wanted to talk about them and the men and women who made them'. And talk he does, from descriptions of works of the propagate or perish period of Australian history to the more leisured and increasingly pleased gardening of more recent years.

Crittenden's work is well illustrated with title pages and occasionally whimsical illustrations, and one is only sorry that economics have not dictated a more lavish production. Among the 172 works which Crittenden describes in the bibliographical patch of this work are several by W. H. Ifould, another librarian with a love of gardens, notably roses and sweet peas.

Victor Crittenden's *A history of Australian gardening books and a bibliography 1806-1950* was published as Library Bibliography Series no 11 by Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1986. It costs \$15.00. (ISBN 0 85889 289 8).

Hidden talents

The inventor of a self-twist wool spinning machine and an artist specialising in pen and wash drawings of buildings are among the talented ones lurking in the Victorian Parliament and listed in the *Victorian Parliamentary handbook*.

The third edition of this useful little work was published by the Parliamentary Library last year. This compilation presents not only the smiling visage of each MP and MLC, but also their bare biographical bones, together with electoral information.

Copies of the *Victorian Parliamentary handbook* are available from the Victorian Government Printing Office, PO Box 203, North Melbourne, Vic 3051, at \$15.00 plus \$2.50 postage. (ISSN 07064039).

Something old, something new

Gone are the days when you almost needed a PhD or even a DPhil to approach the CSIRO's online information retrieval network. AUSTRALIS is here, and AUSTRALIS is very user-friendly, especially to intimates of STAIRS (which users of AUSINET and BRS will be). Besides which AUSTRALIS, unlike some predecessors, presents a proper user manual — not a microfiche mass of gobbledegook.

CSIRO AUSTRALIS: the manual is a splendidly produced guide to making the best use of this new service. Well laid out, well planned, well written and, well, excellent, this guide will help you make good use of the AUSTRALIS goodies, which include the CSIRO Index, ABOA (Australian Bibliography of Agriculture), and the Renewable Energy Index. *CSIRO AUSTRALIS: the manual* was published last year by the CSIRO and is available from its Information Resources Unit, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Vic 3002, phone (03) 418 7333. (ISBN 0 643 04140 0)

AUSTRALIS is but one of the ingredients in the latest edition of *Recipe book service of online searching*, which has grown like a yeasty dough since its first appearance a few years ago.

New services, such as BOOKNET, ELDERLINK, and MONEY WATCH, are included in this loose-leaf service, which provides basic information and instructions for searchers using these online services. This is especially useful for irregular users, or those who are simply looking around at the field. There is helpful information on the times when particular services are available, contact addresses and a select glossary of online terms short enough not to make you shudder.

Recipe book service of online searching is published by R. D. Williamson and Associates, 2 Kenny Street, Balwyn, Vic 3104. (ISBN 0 9595009 0).

Correction

The list of recipients of the Association's Redmond Barry Award in the 1987 LAA Diary states that Professor Emeritus Frederick Alexander is deceased. This is incorrect, and the note should have appeared against the entry for Professor Gordon Greenwood, who died recently. The Association wishes to express its apologies to Professor Alexander for this error.



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