



THE SOURCE

The life of Bryan

A remarkable book about a remarkable librarian is the only way to describe *An enthusiasm for libraries: essays in honour of Harrison Bryan*, which was published in 1988 by Ancora Press.

For this is no ordinary man, and this is certainly no ordinary festschrift. Editors Neil Radford and Jean Whyte have eschewed the traditional festschrift formula, which generally calls for essays by distinguished colleagues which they feel will give pleasure to the person honoured. This splendidly-designed and beautifully-printed work is actually about Harrison Bryan, his writings on librarianship and kindred subjects and by extension his significance in the development of libraries in Australia.

Bryan is the golden thread running through this work, from a very perceptive biographical chapter by Radford, through assessments of Bryan the bibliographer, printer, library historian, university and national librarian, library building consultant, writer and editor. Each author — and a distinguished band they are too — was asked to 'examine Bryan's published writings and to assess critically his contribution to his profession as reflected in them'. The well-briefed vivisectionists set to with a will, and provide a variety of assessments of Bryan's achievements, not shying away from aspects of his writings or his activities where they think he might have said or done more, or done it differently. Only one of the contributors seems to have deserted his brief and, bit firmly clenched between the teeth, delivers a practically Bryan-less chapter which is more of a post mortem than a vivisection. The vivisected, however, has entered into the spirit of the affair: Bryan's contribution is a 40-page rejoinder, reacting appropriately to the laurels, and responding in good humour (and often with humour) to criticism, real or implied. Jean Murray contributes a typically thorough bibliography of Bryan's writing, and the work is rounded off by a fine index.

An enthusiasm for libraries, edited by Neil Radford and Jean Whyte, is highly recommended. I found it compulsive reading. It was published by Ancora Press at the Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, and costs \$36.00. (ISBN 0 86862 010 6).

Now in stock! David Jones' *The Source Book: reviews of reference material for Australian libraries and information services*. \$18 members and \$27 non-members (plus \$1.50 postage). Source at your fingertips! Send in your cheque to LAA Head Office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007.

Legal Ease

What is a Mareva injunction? What was the DOGS case? How would you react to a brutum fulmen? These, and countless other legal and related terms are defined in an outstanding reference book published in 1988 by CCH Australia in association with Macquarie Library Pty Ltd. This is an inspired co-publication, bringing together lexicographical and legal skills, knowledge and resources.

The CCH Macquarie concise dictionary of modern law focuses upon law as it is practised in Australia, excising many terms (such as 'housebote — an allowance of necessary timber out of the lord's wood') which pepper and clutter overseas legal dictionaries upon which we have previously had to rely. About 3,000 definitions are provided, with a fair sprinkling of terms from business and commerce. The meaning of many hundreds of foreign words and phrases is explained in one of the appendixes.

Another reprints the Constitution Act. Perplexed citation seekers will find Colin Fong's contribution, a lengthy list of Australian legal abbreviations, most welcome. Another law librarian, John Rodwell, contributed the list of popular Australian case names. Add a table of regnal years and a list of justices of the High Court, and you have in this work a potent entree into the realms of legal writing and speech.

The CCH Macquarie concise dictionary of modern law is available in a paperback 'business' edition at \$35.00 (ISBN 0 86903 886 9) or a hardbound 'professional edition' at \$48.00 (ISBN 0 86903 997 0) - It's a good buy at any price.

Family life

The publishing output of the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has been vigorous during 1988. There have been two excellent annotated reading lists of books for young people and substantial bibliographies on homelessness and the impact of work on family functioning. Nadia Wheatley was the compiler of *Children and family problems* (ISBN 0 642 12320 9) and *Adolescents and family problems* (ISBN 0 642 12377 2), presenting a selection of positive, well-crafted, non-sexist and non-racist books to help at times of stress and crisis. Books which depict separation and divorce, stepfamilies, adoption and fostering, sibling rivalry, disabilities, unemployment, death, sexuality and sexual abuse and searching for parents.

These well-designed booklets are available gratis from the AIFS, 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000.

• *Homelessness*, compiled by Jenny Loft and Mari Davis, is an annotated bibliography of Australian research, based on documents recorded in the AIFS FAMILY database. After necessary definitions are established, David Field provides a useful perspective on homelessness in the Lucky Country. The work is divided into two sections, the first containing general references, the second homing in on 'contributing factors and populations in danger', such as disability, the aged, young people. Attention is also given to crisis accommodation and government assistance. The bibliography is interspersed with telling quotations and reprints of newspaper articles.

Homelessness is available (gratis, I think) from the AIFS. (ISBN 0 642 13188 0)

• *Work and family functioning* was also drawn from the FAMILY database, and compiled by Mari Davis. It lists 'works

published in Australia on issues about work obligations and family responsibilities.' The items, which are substantially annotated, cover topics as varied as part-time work, suburban living, stress at work and family life, and child care, and reveal not only a mass of research carried out, but also how much remains to be done.

Work and family functioning is available at \$6.50, plus \$2.00 postage, from the AIFS, 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000. (ISBN 0 642 12190 7)

Briefly...

• *Russian autocrats from Ivan the Great to the Fall of the Romanov Dynasty* by David R. and Melinda A. Egan is a 512-page, 2082-item bibliography of English language sources. It contains very informative annotations and seems to cover every conceivable aspect of the subject, ranging from Tsar Feodor's physical appearance (determined by an examination of the contents of his sarcophagus) to the 'Real Rasputin' as remembered by his daughter.

Published in 1987 by Scarecrow Press. US\$49.50. Review copy supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 8108 1958 9)

• *The first dictionary*, compiled by Diane Snowball and Robyn Green, is an Australian dictionary containing 1350 basic words likely to be encountered by learners in primary schools — suggested age range 5-8. Each word is explained by context ('The library has hundreds of books for the children to borrow'). Illustrations are used for harder words. Published in 1988 by Oxford University Press. \$9.95. (ISBN 0 19 554931 7)

• *My picture dictionary*, from the same compilers, contains 350 words, each accompanied by a bright illustration from Jeannette Rowe. It was also published in 1988 by Oxford, and costs \$14.95. (ISBN 0 19 554930 9)

A giant-sized version (585 x 375 mm) is also available as *My big picture dictionary*, at \$25.95. (ISBN 0 19 554950 3)

• *Australian gold deposits: selected references, late 1800s to 1987* continues the splendid series of AESIS (Australian Earth Sciences Information System) Special lists. No need to fossick around — the indexes are very full. Further information on this and other AESIS products is available from the Australian Mineral Foundation, 63 Conyngham Street, Glenside, SA 5065. (ISSN 0157-9002)

• *Bibliography of education theses in Australia, 1985*, published in 1987, is an annual listing of Masters and Doctoral dissertations in education and related disciplines, as reported to the Australian Council for Educational Research. A fascinating potpourri, with subjects as diverse as the Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library and the cultural contribution of the St Kilda Palais. \$25.00. (ISSN 0811-0174)

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