

# THE SOURCE

## Chinese dates

When precisely were the Gang of Four arrested, and by whom? When did Gough Whitlam first visit China? Was this before or after Francis James was released? These are just a few of the thousands of questions which can be answered by a chronology of China in the 1970s prepared by Peter P. Cheng. His *Chronology of the People's Republic of China 1970-1979* records major happenings, day by day, year by year, from a wide variety of Chinese and other sources.

This work is a continuation of Cheng's *A chronology of the People's Republic of China from October 1, 1949*, which was published by Rowman and Littlefield in 1972. It would be an understatement to describe the 1970s in China as eventful, and China watchers will find this chronology, with its name and subject indexes invaluable. The subject index could have been more specific — almost a

page of references entered baldly under 'politics' is rather daunting.

Peter P. Cheng's *Chronology of the People's Republic of China 1970-1979* was published by Scarecrow in 1986 and costs US\$55.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 8108 1751 9)

## Cataloguers' choice

A third edition of *LC period subdivisions under names of places* was published by the Library of Congress in 1987. This was compiled from LC's online subject authority file, and is of course much less unwieldy than the main volumes of LCSH. The list is not of course a definitive one — as the preface is quick to point out. Local users will realise that Australia did have a history before 1788 and will have created the appropriate period subdivision.

*LC period subdivisions under names of places*, third edition, is available from the Catalog Distribution Service at US\$16.00. (Supt. of Docs no.: LC 26.2:P41/987)

The monumental *LC thesaurus for graphic materials: topical terms for subject access* provides the fullest range of terms for describing pictures that I have ever seen, which isn't perhaps too surprising, given the size and scope of the Library of Congress pictorial collections. *LCTGM* contains 3567 'postable' (i.e. authorised) terms, with 2569 cross references, in a traditional thesaurus format, with public notes, cataloguer's notes and a veritable rash of references.

So if you want to know what to do with your glass negatives of organ grinders, Polaroid prints of parrots, slides of spittoons, faded photographs of yellow journalism or prints of puma hunting, this is your list.

*LC thesaurus for graphic materials: topical terms for subject access* was published by LC in 1987 and is excellent value at US\$30.00. (Supt. of Docs. no.: LC25.2:G76/3)

## Women's studies

Women from Australia to Zimbabwe, and even Utopia, are covered in a very substantial bibliography of recommended works published in 1987 by Libraries Unlimited. Catherine R. Loeb, Susan E. Searing and Esther F. Stineman's *Women's studies: a recommended core bibliography 1980-1985* is the 538-page successor to Stineman and Loeb's 1979 *Women's studies*, which assembled in one place a 'core collection of books and periodicals to support the panoply of women's studies courses then in place'.

Extending coverage to 1985 has been challenging, and the editors have had to be very selective in bringing forth a manageable 1211-item bibliography. The very informative introduction contains a good description of the rigorous selection process, and of how the evaluations in the extensive annotations were arrived at. The whole is well-arranged and impeccably indexed. Non-US sources are given some representation — seven entries refer to Australia, for example — and there is a useful list of women's studies periodicals, once again helpfully annotated.

Catherine R. Loeb, Susan E. Searing and Esther F. Stineman's *Women's studies: a recommended core bibliography 1980-1985* is itself highly recommended. It was published in 1987 by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$66.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 87287 472 9)

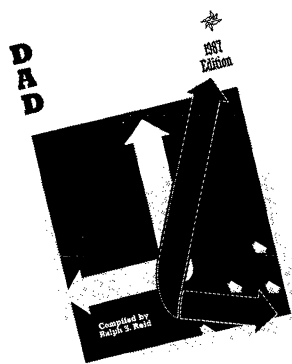
## Brief encounter

It is good to see yet another edition of Eric Pugh's excellent dictionary of acronyms and abbreviations, a joint publication of the Library Association and the American Library Association in 1987.

Pugh began this work in 1965, and his first collection was published by Bingley in 1968 (and locally, interestingly enough, by Cheshire). Second and third volumes appeared in 1974 and 1976, and, mercifully, a cumulation with additional entries, in 1981. Now the fifth edition (the second full edition) is with us. Pugh has maintained his emphasis upon management, technology and information science, and his international coverage — although there is a distinct Anglophone dominance.

*Pugh's dictionary of acronyms and abbreviations*, fifth edition, remains a must for the reference shelf. It was published by the Library Association and the American Library Association in 1987 and costs 45 pounds (36 pounds to LA members). (ISBN (LA) 0 85365 537 5; ISBN (ALA) 0 8389 2044 6)

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