Food for thought

Dragging a leg of pork through the sea from the stern of an immigrant ship to freshen it or cooking and eating the sole of a camel's foot may not sound likely fare for librarians today, but South Australian society and library identities enjoyed these tales at the re-creation of an historic dinner within the Victorian splendour of the Mortlock Library of South Australiana.

As a prelude to the Adelaide Festival, and the State Library's exhibition of menus, 'Eating Out, a menu retrospective', the library hosted a $100 a head Vice Regal dinner which re-created a Government House menu of 1867. This menu was for a dinner held in honour of the first royal visitor to South Australia, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh.

Guests needed to go into training for what turned out to be a 20 course menu which, while authentic, had had its sauces lightened a little for 1990's tastes by guest chef Cheong Liew. By serving much of the meal on platters everybody had a chance to taste, if not eat, it all. The food was glorified by some very old Barossa wines to tempt the taste buds at every course. Apart from the food, guests were entertained by readings from early immigrants' and explorers' journals as well as some famous Australian writers such as Norman Lindsay's *The magic pudding* and Thistle Anderson's *Arcadian Adelaide*.

The popularity of the dinner in Adelaide was overwhelming, and all 116 tickets were sold in 4 days. As an experience it was a once in a lifetime event that still has Adelaideans talking.

While the library does not want to devalue this dinner, the interest it created in the library suggests that it would be worthy of a repeat as an opening occasion to future Festivals. With over 2000 menus to choose from, this

will be an exciting pastime for lucky librarians in the future.

The exhibition itself was a big hit and attracted many thousands of people, so much so that its showing was extended a further month.

The menus had been collected through a public appeal supported by food columnists in daily newspapers in Australia. Librarians Valmai Hankel, Liz Ho and Zaiga Sudrabs did most of the work with some help from members of the Gastronomic Symposium which was held in Adelaide this year. A number of menus were lent by other libraries in Australia and the State Library is very grateful for this support. In the end, 190 menus were chosen to go into the display of table settings and other food ideas including some of the original crockery and silver used at a civic banquet on the occasion of the 1867 royal visit.

The flavour was history at the Vice Regal dinner held in the graceful Mortlock Library.

taken. And in that time there have been severe cutbacks in many departmental libraries, and a few threatened closures, which have been prevented only by last minute lobbying by members of the Branch Executive. Clearly this can't continue, especially with program budgetting and continuing pressure on Government spending compelling departmental managers to examine the value of the services which they are getting.

Only by a concerted effort in promoting the worth of library services can we expect that we will be taken seriously and be able to get on with the job of providing the best information services to our organisations. This concerted effort will be one of the major priorities for the ACT Branch in the next couple of years.

αβχδεφγη
Cataloguing:
it's all Greek to...

One of the most significant developments in library services for many years was launched recently by Technilib. It is the Greek cooperative catalogue project, a newly developed program able to list and describe Greek books in participating libraries.

The program also provides a centralised cataloguing service and links it all to an online computer system which operates in the Greek language and not in the more usual transliterated form. As a result it is now possible to have a computerised Greek language catalogue of holdings of Greek books in libraries throughout Victoria including the State Library of Victoria. Catalogues produced from the system are published on microfiche.

Libraries of different types are now actively participating in the project and new participants are welcome from anywhere in Australia. This catalogue is also available for use by members of the Technilib network, which is a cooperative of public libraries in Victoria.

Doug Savige, Executive Director of Technilib said that as far as it can be determined it is also a world first and in advance of library cataloguing systems available, even in Greece. 'It is also a vital step in providing library services to Victoria's ethnic communities,' he said. 'Greek was chosen as the focus for this work because there was a large Greek-speaking and reading population in Melbourne and there were large holdings of Greek books and other materials in Victorian libraries. 'With the then emerging technologies of data processing and computer output microfiche there was potential to do this in the original form.'

It took more than 3 1/2 years of effort by Technilib to make it possible. The first stages of the work, began much earlier in the late 1970s and was centred around the Carringbush Regional Library, with great support from the then Heidelberg Regional Library. With the close help of the library computer bureau, Libramatic Systems, a cooperative working group put together a batch computer system. The system enabled the entry of

Better for business

The ranks of information services for the business community swelled by one in May with the launch of Business Information in South Australia.

Business Information is a fee-based priority information service aimed at the corporate sector. Various similar services have been established in eastern states in recent years, but Business Information is a different model, combining as it does the massive resources of the State Library of South Australia and the campus libraries of two academic institutions — the South Australian Institute of Technology and the South Australian College of Advanced Education. This cooperation brings together some nine libraries, two million volumes, twenty three database services ... and over sixty reference staff.

The service was launched by Barry Orr, Executive Director of Technology Park. Barry Orr said business welcomed the establishment of such services, and recognised the value of good information to their operations and growth.

Business Information has extended the service and resources offered through the South Australian Institute of Technology Information Service (SAITIS) offered to Technology Park companies through 1989 and improves access to those resources for the whole corporate community. The State Library of South Australia is hosting Business Information and supplying office facilities. Business Information is administered through Techsearch and managed by Lee Welch, last seen at PressCom, News Ltd's full text newspaper database service.

The May launch of the service was by no means the start of operation for Business Information. The service has been operating since Christmas 1989 and the client list already includes some of South Australia's top companies, both with and without libraries of their own.

From left: Euan Miller, SA State Librarian; Lee Welch, Manager, Business Information; Linda Luther, Campus Librarian, The Levels, South Australian Institute of Technology; Alan Bundy, College Librarian, South Australian College of Advanced Education; Barry Orr, Executive Director, Technology Park, Adelaide.

Greek books using the Greek alphabet, not transliterated and eventually produced catalogues for wide distribution on microfiche.

In the mid-1980s with various company takeovers and the eventual closure of Libramatic Systems, the Greek catalogue was threatened with collapse before it had even successfully produced the first microfiche in Greek. It was at this stage that Technilib became involved, agreeing to take over the project as part of its overall library cataloguing activities. With the help of IBM Australia and Aspect Computing, this involved modifying Technilib's computer systems to process the Greek alphabet as well as the extended Roman alphabet. L M Ericsson Pty Ltd developed the online terminals which display the Greek alphabet as well as the Roman alphabet and Endata Pty Ltd, formerly Micromation, developed a new microfiche process for production of microfiche catalogues in Greek and English.

Doug Savige said the costs for the project have been borne by Technilib as part of its general non-English languages cataloguing program, but lack of funds caused the project to proceed at a much slower pace than was desired. Technilib uses a combination of staff with skills in both the Greek language and library cataloguing knowledge. Greek items are catalogued to the same international standards as English items. They are entered, stored, displayed and output in the Greek script. Items are processed ready for use by the public and records can be searched on both the microfiche catalogue and appropriately modified terminal equipment.

At the launch of the Greek language catalogue, from left, executive director of Technilib, Doug Savige; Technilib Greek cataloguer Jo Vrachnas; and the chairman of the Australian Advisory Council on Languages and Multi-cultural Education, Joseph Lo Bianco.

Election of Vice-President 1990

(President-elect 1991)

Call for nominations

In 1986, the General Council of the then Library Association of Australia resolved to change the composition of the Executive Committee from President, immediate Past-President, Vice-President, General Secretary, General Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Education to President, Immediate Past-President, Vice-President and two members of the Council elected by the General Council to the Executive Committee.

The positions of General Treasurer and General Secretary are thus being abolished. This will be completed when revised By-laws are approved by the Governor-General. In the interim, these positions are being filled by the two members of Council elected to the Executive Committee.

In accordance with Division F

Regulations, nominations are now called for the position of Vice-President 1991 (President-elect 1992). Nominees must be personal financial members of the Association. Candidates and nominators should read the relevant regulations carefully. Please note that nominations must be:

- in writing
- signed by two financial members of ALIA
- accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who shall supply a current curriculum vitae and a statement of professional concerns (each of no more than 100 words).

Nominations must reach the Executive Director, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 by 5 pm on **3 September 1990.**