



DAVID J. JONES

## An eloquent ear

Between 1957 and 1984 Hazel de Berg recorded around 1300 interviews for the National Library of Australia, covering virtually all the Australian poets, artists and writers who were extant during that period and who could be persuaded to speak into her microphone, as well as composers, actors, academics, publishers, scientists, public servants and some politicians. There were also librarians: Binns, Brideson, Feely, Gordon Richardson, Larry Lake, Osborn, Leo Walters, and a blockbuster 190-minute interview with John Metcalfe in 1974.

The wealth of material in this marvelous collection of tapes and transcriptions deserves to be better known, and this will be facilitated by the recent publication of a detailed catalogue, entitled *The Hazel de Berg recordings from the oral history collection of the National Library of Australia*.

What treasure lies within! Ferguson talks about his life and bibliography. Residents of the Mowll Memorial Village talk about living in a retirement village. Arthur Calwell relives the Split. Dick Smith talks about the past and the future. Just a few of the hundreds whose memories and ideas were drawn out by this patient, determined, yet self-effacing interviewer. We learn something of the interviewer herself, not from the recordings (she carefully pressed the pause button whenever she asked a question) but from Tim Bowden's informative introduction.

*The Hazel de Berg recordings from the oral history collection of the National Library of Australia* was published by the NLA in 1989 and costs \$20. (ISBN 0 642 10485 9)

## ALISA — alive and well

*ALISA* (Australian library and information science abstracts) is keeping up its good work, with the recent publication of the 1988 annual volume, edited by Barbara Blacoe. Six hundred and ninety nine items are cited and abstracted in this edition, most of them published during 1987 and 1988. As before, *ALISA* attempts to provide comprehensive coverage of 'all current Australian literature, published and unpublished, on library and information science', including articles and reports by Australian authors published overseas. *ALISA* records are also available online in the Australian Education Index database on AUSINET. Obtainable from Library Publications, South Australian College of Advanced Education, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032, *ALISA* 1988 costs \$45 post free. (ISSN 0810-9265)

## Sound investment

The Anthology of Australian Music on Disc is an ambitious project initiated by the Canberra School of Music (now the School of Music, Canberra Institute of the Arts) in association with the Australian Bicentennial Authority. The project involved recording outstanding performances of twentieth-century Australian chamber music by leading Australian musicians. The resulting collection has now been issued on 15 compact discs accompanied by a very informative 120-page handbook. The latter provides biographical details about composers and performers, many with portraits (making it a useful reference work in its own right) and an analysis of each item by a musicologist. The work of 44 composers is represented, ranging from cello concerti to works for solo guitar, from wind quintets to electronic music played, in one case, using oscillators mounted in Tupperware containers swinging from the ceiling of the Llewellyn Hall in Canberra. But there is nothing improvised or Heath Robinson about the overall production and quality of this collection: it is a valuable living time-capsule of twentieth century Australian music, of outstanding interest to Australian musicologists and music students, and to all who have a serious interest in the development of Australian music. The Anthology of Australian Music on Disc, consisting of 15 compact discs and the handbook in a boxed set, costs \$300 plus \$20 postage. Copies of *Anthology of Australian Music on Disc: Handbook* (ISBN 1 875161 01 5) are available separately for \$30 plus \$5 postage. Orders or enquiries for further information should be addressed Margaret Ziersch, Executive Officer, School of Music, Canberra Institute of the Arts, GPO Box 804, Canberra ACT 2601.

## Briefly ...

*Examples illustrating AACR2 1988 revision* by Eric J Hunter can be used in several ways: to find how AACR2 copes with problems, to find examples of the application of particular rules, and to identify cataloguing difficulties. More emphasis in this edition on non-book formats (how do you catalogue an alarm clock or a body exerciser?), and excellent indexes. 'Indispensable for cataloguers, students and lecturers' saith the blurb, with justification. Published in 1989 by Library Association Publishing at £11.95 (£9.56 to LA members). (ISBN 0 85365 649 5)

*Public relations in business, government, and society* by Anne B Passarelli is a 129-page bibliographic guide to this important activity, covering the theory and history as well as practical aspects. Emphasis is on American materials. Good introductions to each topic and pithy annotations: useful when titles (such as Robert Rasberry's *The technique of political lying*) are cryptic. Published by Libraries Unlimited in 1989 at US\$38.50. Review copy supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 87287 741 8)

*The challenge of diversity*, edited by James Jupp, traces policy options for a multicultural Australia in education, employment, health and welfare and the law. Based on papers prepared for the Office of Multicultural Affairs in 1988, the 21 chapters in this book are intended to 'raise issues and suggest solutions' rather than to detail policy. 'Documentation, communication and staffing in all spheres of local government council activity require attention if multicultural policies are to govern practice. Perhaps no function is subject to greater cost pressures in this regard than libraries' (p 249). 'Public libraries...have been overlooked and unfunded by the Commonwealth' (p 250). Important reading. Published by AGPS Press at \$24.95. (ISBN 0 644 08747 1)

*Yearbook of international organisations*, 26th edition, 1989/90, volume one, contains descriptions of organisations and indexes. A massive production — the print is getting smaller, but the work as a whole is getting bigger. An editorial minefield, it is salutary to read the 'Warning' about attempted censorship of entries and the dubiousness of some bodies. Published by Saur in 1989 and available locally from D W Thorpe, who supplied a review copy, \$380. Companion volumes present a geographic and subject approach to the organisations referred to in the other volume. (ISBN 0 598 22201 7; ISSN 0084-3814).