

# THE S O U R C E

David J. Jones

*Dinky-di* by Morag Loh traces the contribution of Chinese immigrants and Australians of Chinese descent to Australia's defence forces and war efforts, 1899-1988. A selection of servicemen and women tell their own stories, with an historical overview, and copious photographs. Published by AGPS Press in 1989 for the Office of Multicultural Affairs. (ISBN 0 644 08292 5)

*Dance Australia* readers: did you notice that issue 36, dated June/July 1988, contained an index to issues 1 to 32, compiled by Jean Hagger, assisted by Vivienne Dunn. Valuable resource for dance historians and other devotees.

## Cataloguing comforters

Three and forests are the nice analogy used by Michael Gorman in his 1988 revision of *The concise AACR2*, published simultaneously by the American, British and Canadian Library Associations in 1989. By diligent and careful pruning Gorman and his advisory group cleared the 'least familiar trees from the thickly planted wood we call AACR' (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules), and 'convey the essence and basic principles of the second edition the-way-and-complex materials'. This work is aimed at a number of audiences, including students, some 'one-person' libraries and cataloguers working in non-English language environments. *The concise AACR2: 1988 revision*, prepared by Michael Gorman, was published by the ALA, LA and CLA in 1989 and costs US\$15. My copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 3362 9 [ALA]; ISBN 0 88802 253 0 [CLA]; ISBN 0 85365 799 8 [LA])

Concise is also the style of Liz Chapman's *How to catalogue: a practical handbook using AACR2 and Library of Congress*, the second edition of which was

published by Bingley in 1990. This edition takes on board, of course, the 1988 revision of AACR2 and changes in Library of Congress cataloguing practice, 'particularly in the area of subject headings'. The 86-page handbook is arranged alphabetically by topic, of which there are about 40. These range from a half page on 'limbo' to several pages on slices of major topics, such as subject headings. There is a short bibliography and a good index. This should prove a useful work for small libraries using LC classification. *How to catalogue* by Liz Chapman, second edition, was published by Bingley in 1989 and costs £10.95 (£8.76 to Library Association members). (ISBN 0 85157 427 0)

With Studwell and Loertscher's *Cataloguing books: a workbook of examples* cataloguing students get 100 practice problems, with enough information from the title page or verso to prepare a complete cataloguing record. Each right hand page has spaces to add information for each MARC tag, plus a few 'focus problems', such as 'What is the main entry for Biblical quotations?' and 'What should be done with translators ...?' 'Cataloguing professors and trainers' needing the answers (they are not in the back of the book) can contact the publisher to obtain them on disc. William E Studwell and David V Loertscher's *Cataloguing books* was published in 1989 by Libraries Unlimited and costs US\$17. My copy was supplied by James Bennet Library Services. (ISBN 0 87287 641 1)

Another workbook, this time on Dewey, was published by the Canadian Library Association in 1989. *Workbook for DDC 20* does have the answers in the back, although sadistic 'professors and trainers' could tear them out: the workbook is conveniently spiral bound. Intended to be a starting point for wanderers in the Dewey Dewey fog, rather than an exhaustive treatise, the work starts with the three summaries and proceeds logically through subdivisions, the tables, geography and history and the schedules, rounding off with a final review. Naturally the workbook assumes that you have a set of DDC20 at hand at all times. There are hours of learning pleasure and stimulation in this wide-ranging publication. Pat Sifton's *Workbook for DDC20* was published by the CLA in 1989 and costs C\$20 (C\$16 to CLA members). (ISBN 0 88802 252 2)

## An eventful history

Living in borrowed quarters, with a borrowed chief, and in the early days a largely borrowed collection, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library had a challenging genesis. Despite founding fathers

who formulated fine phrases, but ignored sound advice from experts like 'Hydrochloric' Anderson, missed opportunities and turned a blind eye to shortcomings, the Library developed in its first three decades a significant collection. The foundations were laid for a national collection, and for the future National Library of Australia. Andrew and Margaret Osborn write feelingly and comprehensively about these early years in *The Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, 1901-27 and the origins of the National Library of Australia*, a very solid 299-page history published in 1989 by the Department of the Parliamentary Library in association with the National Library of Australia. (ISBN 0 642 14697 7)

The 28 years surveyed cover critical events and activities, such as the acquisition of the Petherick Collection (and of Petherick himself), the publication of *Historical records of Australia* (produced virtually singlehandedly by Frederick Watson), the purchase of Cook's Endeavour journal and the move to Canberra from premises lent (in a gesture of unparalleled generosity in the chequered history of Commonwealth-State relations) by the Victorian Parliament. Andrew Osborn certainly has the background to tackle this topic — he was appointed to the Library in 1921 as a cadet cataloguer, and knew the principal dramatis personae. The Osborns set about their task very methodically, with very full references to their sources, and extensive quotations from published and unpublished documents. The detail provided is outstanding, whether they are dealing with titles in the collection at various times, or an account of the move, which involved transporting the collection from Melbourne to Canberra, a nightmarish journey by horse-drawn lorry to Spencer Street, train to Albury, another train to Goulburn, another train to Canberra, and then truck across alternately dusty or muddy wastes to the Library's new home.

The pen-portraits of some of the pioneers of the Parliamentary Library are spellbinding: Wadsworth, who did not live up to his early promise, but lived it up partly on the proceeds of deals with unscrupulous booksellers, often retiring into his office of an evening with a bottle of whisky and a lady friend. Binns, a truly dedicated and able librarian and administrator. Petherick, the sad, embittered bibliographer, going slowly made in his basement quarters. Watson, brilliant, prolific, shabbily-treated and poorly-handled. And the promising future of the profession, in the persons of Andre Osborn, Harold White and Courtenay Key. This is fascinating stuff: well-researched, well-sourced and well-indexed.