

The Source



David J Jones

Especially ticklish, I always thought, was copyright in artistic works, but this is succinctly described in this slim, readable volume...

IHAD NEVER had the pleasure of meeting FA (Ali) Sharr. Until the publication of his *Recollections: forty years of public library service*, that is. For in the span of these 120 pages we learn much about the person, his infectious enthusiasm and energy, his judgement, his organizing ability and much more. Sharr tells of his origins and early life, his education and training at the University of London School of Librarianship and his successful career at the National Central Library, Kent and Derbyshire county libraries, and in Manchester.

It was on a dreary, wet Saturday morning in Manchester that two visitors were ushered into his office, and Sharr's life, and the shape of Western Australian library services, would undergo a radical change. Sharr describes the fun and hard work which followed, providing valuable insights into the issues and the people involved between his arrival in 1953 and his retirement in 1976, by which time 96% of the local authorities in the State had established public libraries. This is an important first-hand account, to be followed we hope by similar accounts from others prominent in post-War library developments. FA Sharr's *Recollections: forty years of public library service* was published in 1992 by Auslib Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051. It costs \$22.00 plus \$4.00 postage. (ISBN 1 875145 12 5)

A potpourri of parliamentarians

For those researching federal politics, the scattering of parliamentarians' papers is a perplexity: some, regarding themselves as State figures, deposited papers with State libraries; others were lodged in the National Library; some are in the Australian Archives; others are in private hands.

When the Australian Parliamentary Library initiated its oral history programme covering former federal parliamentarians a few years ago, the project staff became very aware of this scattering. *Parliamentary voices in history* is a valuable by-product of this programme, showing the locations of the private papers and of oral history recordings in dozens of different institutions around the country. Arranged by the parliamentarian's name, each entry shows party affiliation, electorate, terms of office, a brief description of contents, date ranges of collections and extent, and information about access restrictions. *Parliamentary voices in history* compiled by Carmel

Frances McInerney is a very useful guide, and was published in 1992 by the Australian Parliamentary Library. It costs \$10.00. (ISBN 0 644 24064 4)

Golden oldies and nifty newies

The Film and Video Lending Collection of the National Library of Australia contains some gems for the student of film and for film societies. There are over 4500 films and videos 'selected to provide an overview of the history, art and sociology of world cinema and television,' available for loan for non-commercial, non-theatrical screenings by groups anywhere in Australia.

So extensive is the very informative catalogue to the collection, that it has now been published in more parts than Gaul: there are eight volumes of the *Screen studies catalogue*, covering: American feature films and short fiction; international features and short fiction; Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand works; experimental film and video; animation; documentary; film and television study; and an overall title and 'personality' index. 'Personality' covers mainly directors and stars of the first magnitude. Unfortunately the title index doesn't refer you directly to the volume containing the full entry for the work involved, but gives only the NLA record number, but a little inspiration or browsing will get you to the right volume ere long. *Screen studies catalogue* will be welcomed by film groups, libraries with free screening programmes and institutions supporting film studies courses. The eight volume catalogue is available as a package for \$40.00, or at \$7.00 per volume, and was published in 1992 by the Film and Video Lending Collection of the NLA. (ISBN 0 642 10550 2 (set); ISBN 0 642 10551 0 (vol 1); ISBN 0 642 10552 9 (vol 2); ISBN 0 642 10553 7 (vol 3); ISBN 0 642 10554 5 (vol 4); ISBN 0 642 10555 3 (vol 5); ISBN 0 642 10556 1 (vol 6); ISBN 0 642 10557 X (vol 7); ISBN 0 642 10558 8 (vol 8))

More of a good thing

Two new editions of valuable text-cum reference works from Charles Sturt University have recently appeared. The second edition of *Collection development for Australian libraries* by Gary Gorman and John Kennedy (the first edition was co-authored by Gorman and Brian Howes) is a solid 545 pages on the theories and practices of collection

► development, drawing on a cornucopia of readings of Australian origin.

Why do you need a collection development policy? How do you develop one? How do you evaluate your collections? How do you weed (always harder than selecting, I found)? There is a good 80-page select bibliography, daunting for some students but certainly useful for the practitioners. There is an entirely new chapter on the emerging issues of Conspectus and the Distributed National Collection. *Collection development for Australian libraries*, second edition by GE Gorman and J Kennedy, was published by the Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University—Riverina as 'Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies' No 5. It costs \$45.00. (ISBN 0 949060 16 X; ISSN 1030-5009)

A second edition of JJ Mills' *Information resources and services in Australia* is also most welcome. Its purpose is to 'assist the information professional, the librarian, to answer reference questions by identifying a range of Australian reference resources,' and this it does very thoroughly, in over a hundred more pages than the first edition which appeared two years ago. The onward march of the CD-ROM is everywhere apparent: information about online services has grown apace; appendixes have become enlarged, but not enough to warrant surgery. This is still a landmark work, destined for heavy use in the reference library and on the student's desk. More than ever 'Mills is a boon.' *Information resources and services in Australia* by JJ Mills, with the assistance of J Richardson, second edition, was published by the Centre for Information Studies at Charles Sturt University—Riverina as 'Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies' No 4. It is in hardback and costs \$45.00. (ISBN 0 949060 15 1; ISSN 1030-5009)

A good Reid

Last year the stalwart Ralph Reid produced a second edition of his *Directory of Australian directories*, a valuable guide to a notoriously difficult and diverse species. 1016 directories, current at the time of publication, are listed, together with all the information you would ever need to know about them: titles, publishers, addresses, phone numbers, scope, arrangement, indexes, editor, size. Entries are arranged under 33 headings, and there are subject, title, editor/author, ISBN and ISSN

indexes, as well as a geographic index of community directories. Ralph S Reid's *Directory of Australian directories* was published in 1991 by D. W. Thorpe and costs \$55.00.

(N 0 909532 80 X)

Copyright or wrong?

A wealth of experience in fielding questions about copyright in a live, library situation is encapsulated in the State Library of New South Wales' *Coping with copyright*. Especially ticklish, I always thought, was copyright in artistic works, but this is succinctly described in this slim, readable volume. The significance of May 1969, the copyright implications of the fax machine, readers using their own equipment, anonymous authors, dead copyright holders and Crown Copyright are all briefly and simply explained. The little book is rounded off with extracts from the Act and a good index. *Coping with copyright* was published by the State Library of New South Wales in 1991 and costs \$12.50. (ISBN 0 7305 8897 1)

A tough assignment

Preparing an annotated bibliography dealing with homosexuality in works for young people is a tough assignment, and it comes as no surprise that Laurel Clyde and Marjorie Lobban's *Out of the closet and into the classroom* is a world first. As the thoughtful introduction indicates, this work is launched into an environment in which there is lively debate about the extent to which children's literature, and indeed other media, should mirror reality, and dispute even about that reality.

120 English language works are listed and described in this book, ranging from picture books to novels for young adults, some presenting positive role models, others dealing with homosexuality in an incidental way. The authors trace in the literature they have examined a

'noticeable movement away from homosexuality as a problem to be faced to a view of it as a valid, albeit sometimes difficult, choice of sexual orientation.' *Out of the closet and into the classroom* by Laurel Clyde and Marjorie Lobban was published in 1992 by ALIA Thorpe and costs \$35.00. (ISBN 1 875589 02 3)

Love thy neighbours

Detesting your neighbour's cat, in the intimate surroundings of a home unit, is just one of the topics tackled in a useful guide to the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory laws relating to home units which was recently published by Redfern Legal Centre Publishing. Who is responsible for repairs? What do the by-laws mean in plain English? What is a lot? Brief (66 pages), crisply written and well-priced at \$10.95. *The strata titles handbook* was published in 1992 by Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, 13A Meagher Street, Chippendale, NSW 2008. (ISBN 0 947205 25 X)

Of National significance

There's a new edition of the useful checklist of major manuscript collections held by the National Library of Australia. Listing names, spheres of activity and call numbers, the guide has separate sequences for personal names, and for stations, societies, organisations, companies and conferences. Playwrights, carpenters, politicians, librarians, pianists and ballet dancers rub shoulders here. The third edition of *Principal manuscripts collections in the National Library of Australia* was published in 1992 by the NLA. It costs \$4.50. (ISBN 0 642 10547 2) ■

(Items for review in *The Source* should be sent to:

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