

Monash University

**Graduate  
Department of  
Librarianship,  
Archives and  
Records**

*Courses of interest in 1993*

The Department runs a number of courses at the post-graduate level; two of particular interest to already-qualified librarians are:

**The Master of Librarianship**

A two-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) open to applicants holding both a degree and a professional qualification in librarianship.

The program comprises four coursework units and a thesis, usually worth 67%.

**The Diploma in Librarianship**

A one-year, full-time, two-year part-time award also open to those holding a degree and a professional qualification in librarianship. The program comprises six elective courses from the M Lib repertoire.

The Graduate Department enjoys excellent support within the University and is recognised as one of Australia's leading schools in the field of librarianship, archives and records. It offers a challenging and stimulating context in which professional librarians can enhance their understanding and qualifications in a discipline area which DEET has targeted for significant growth in the coming decade. The opportunities for those who have studied at advanced level should be considered.

The Department is staffed by experienced professionals and educators, and is headed by Professor John Levett, to whom enquiries may be directed, at the

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## New Australian Studies resource

### *Colin Steele's address at the recent launch in Canberra provides food for reflection*

**L**ET ME FIRST THANK James Bennett for their sponsorship of the launch of this *Australian Studies: Acquisition and Collection Development for Libraries*, edited by the indefatigable Dr Gary Gorman with contributors covering the academic, library and bookselling fields.

A Chinese proverb says, 'Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet'. I certainly have no intention of doing that by heavy-handed review comments. Instead, I shall briefly traverse the background to Australian studies that the authors have evoked, remembering that as recently as 1945 Michael Innes (then Professor of English at Adelaide University) indicated that he would not be writing a history of Australian literature as it didn't exist. This new book shows that there certainly *is* a literature—but as Professor Wallace Kirsop points out in his chapter it has naturally been influenced by overseas publishing changes.

#### **The study of Australian literature**

One of the problems and issues brought out by a number of contributors, e.g., by Robert Ross, is the need to promote a structured appreciation of Australian studies. The Texan Professor Hartley Grattan, for a time associated with the ANU, trail-blazed the study of Australian literature. We also owe much to later scholars such as Professor Henry Albinski, who have promoted Australia in the USA.

Gary and Lyn Gorman's introduction to the book speaks of the cultural cringe. It certainly existed and still does on occasion—see the reaction now to *Sylvania Waters!*—but we now stand on our own feet in terms of intellectual understanding and appreciation overseas. The international recognition of authors such as Elizabeth Jolley, Peter Carey, Thomas Keneally and Les Murray is impressive and arose from their own achievements, rather than from any equivalent of AIS or tourist-type promotion. Another point raised by the preface is the plethora of literary awards and the notion of worth. Awards are to be commended, but wouldn't it be good if we could get

one of them accepted as the equivalent of the Booker for sales and public penetration? The Children's Book Council awards leave their adult counterparts for dead.

I am sure we all support the basic premise of the book, to provide the infrastructure for the greater recognition and understanding of Australian literature, history and culture overseas. The availability of it here is taken for granted in the projects described in the book, such as the Australian Joint Copying Project and in collections such as those at Flinders, though the work of the ADFA English Department and the ADFA Library deserves to be given similar prominence.

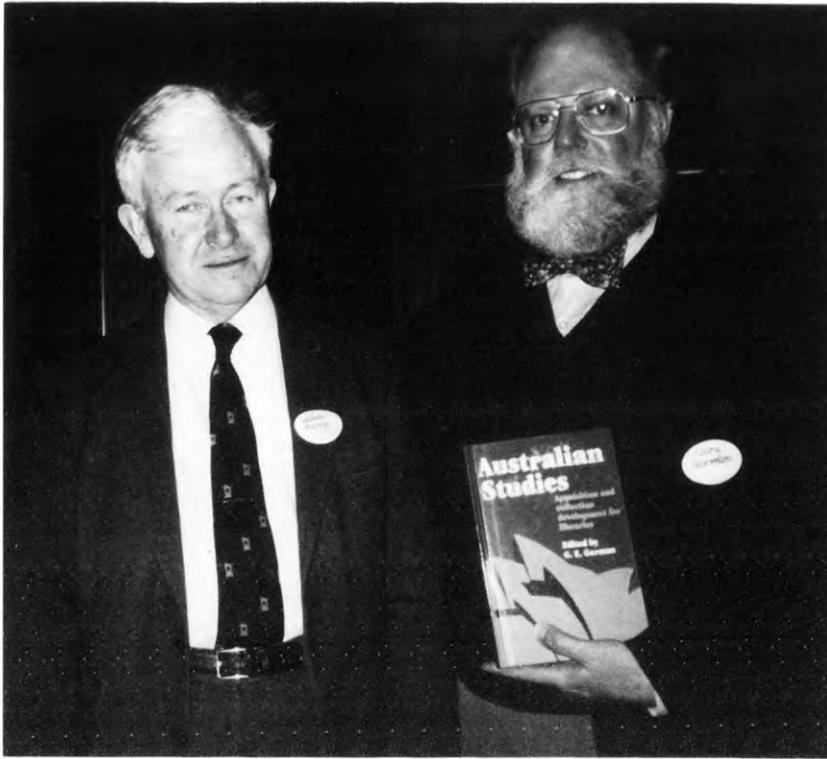
Jerelynn Brown highlights the work done by a relatively small number of firms—and Bennett's stand out here—to promote and sell Australian books. Australiana will, however, only be collected and studied in a time of tightening finances if the area is relevant. It may be difficult for institutions to undertake Australian studies unless Australia is perceived as part of the Asia/Pacific region or its literature is important in its own right.

The network environment has not been really addressed. If we can dial into the British and American databases and catalogues, then so can they to Australian databases. This could overcome the reverse tyranny of access mentioned in the book. It could also see a resurgence in Australian publishing, although the end product might not be a book.

#### **The distributed national collection**

Similarly the distribution of Australian material overseas would be much enhanced by a cooperative or an individual project to scan or input Australian title pages and text into what might be called a more dynamic distributed national collection. John Horacek has had the unenviable task of drawing together the benefits of conspectus and the DNC in the concluding chapter. I believe it is incumbent on CAUL, ACLIS and the National Library to put more teeth into the distributed national collection at a time when overall resources are declining.

The selection and purchase of ►



Editor Gary Gorman (right) with one of his contributors Professor Wallace Kirsop at the launch

material is also relevant in this case and in the collecting of Australiana. Richard Stone documents the major work undertaken by the National Library of Australia. (Alas, the superb initiative of *Towards Federation 2001* came too late for this book.) Derek Whitehead describes, yet again, the rich diversity of multi-cultural publishing in Australia which many University Libraries barely collect and yet which is bringing us new voices and emerging political forces.

#### Where it's at

We certainly need more quality non-fiction as Gary Gorman has pointed out. David Marr's *Patrick White* and now Eric Rolls's new history of the Chinese in Australia put our academics to shame. Helen Trinca in *The Australian* got soundly berated recently when she bemoaned academic jargon, but unless Australian writers write for an intelligent lay public as well as their peer group the game will be lost financially as well as intellectually. We should probably also focus more in the future on our impact in Asia instead of looking so much to the UK and the USA. The ABC's Southeast Asia-Pacific satellite link might be one consciousness-raising mechanism.

The main aim of this volume is to document 'where it's at' and it does this admirably. Gary can be congratulated on the quality of his achievement in providing a

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reference tool, both historical and bibliographical, to the collecting and understanding of Australian culture in the broadest possible sense. It will be a boon to overseas readers, not just in America and the UK, but also in countries like Japan and the other nations of Asia, as an essential base for the collecting of Australian material. Thomas Carlyle said the 'best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self activity'—we need now not only to buy the book for our libraries but also to promote its existence. I have much pleasure in launching it tonight.

*Australian Studies: Acquisition and Collection Development for Libraries*, ed. G E Gorman, London: Mansell, 1992. xii+347pp. Board, £40 (available from James Bennett at a special pre-publication price of \$80 until 9 October) ISBN 0 7201 2134 5 (Note: Colin's address has had to be shortened to half its former length by your procrustean Editor, who takes responsibility for any clumsy suturing.) ■

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ALL AUSTRALIAN  
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