

The Source



David J Jones

Quietly, but I suspect furiously beavering away around Australia, are a phalanx of scholars of Australian literature.

WITH LITTLE flourish, there has been a steady spread of the Australian system of honours and awards in recent years: crosses of valour, stars of courage and gallantry, national medals, police overseas service medals, Australian service medals and so on. The medals and ribbons are illustrated, and their genesis and significance described in a useful little publication produced by the Awards and National Symbols Branch of the Department of Administrative Services. Entitled *The Australian honours system*, this 34-page booklet also lists the order of precedence within the Australian system, including the relative positions of Imperial honours which are no longer usually awarded to Australians, and details of the relevant post nominal letters. There is an accompanying colour poster. Copies of *The Australian honours system* booklet are available from AGPS at \$6.95 post free. The poster costs \$5.95. (No date of publication. No ISBN)

The challenge of library education

Fifteen years of thoughts on library education are spanned in *Interconnections*, a 220-page gathering of the writings of Margaret Trask. These range from a preliminary paper putting the 1975 proposal for courses at what was then Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education to a 1989 address on 'life after library school'. Career planning, external studies, post-basic courses, issues in Australian library education, professional practice: a whole range of issues are addressed. Margaret Trask herself needs no introduction to an Australian library audience, but this collection of her writings provides a new and unique insight into the development of her ideas during this very dynamic period of Australian library education. *Interconnections: library education planning and practice 1975-1989* was published by the Centre for Information Studies Publications, University of

Technology Sydney-Kuring-gai Campus, in 1991, and costs \$28.50 plus \$3.00 postage. (ISBN 1 86365 021 0)

Kiwi bibliographers

A recent publication from the University of Waikato Library reveals that bibliography is alive and well in the land of the long white cloud. Compiled by A P U Millett, *Bibliographical work in New Zealand 1992: work in progress and work published lists* 101 current bibliographical projects and 111 bibliographies published during 1991. This thirteenth issue of this very useful publication is arranged under broad headings, with scope and progress shown for current projects. Key information, such as availability online, publishing arrangements, and frequency of updating, is also shown, and there are author and subject indexes. The interests of New Zealand bibliographers are certainly varied, although agricultural and veterinary matters are well represented: who would expect to find here a bibliography on the Himalayan thar, or on infant crying. Copies of this issue of *Bibliographical work in New Zealand* are available gratis from Tony Millett at the University of Waikato Library, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand. (ISSN 0111-2953)

The law's little mysteries

The fourth edition of *The law handbook* has made a welcome appearance, covering the law as it applies in New South Wales in the now-familiar plain English, non-threatening manner. Now extending to almost 1000 pages, The law handbook maintains the quality of its predecessors: it's easy to navigate around, is crisply-written, well-organised, and well-indexed. It is astonishing to remember that until the advent of this work's predecessor, *The legal resources book*, less than ten years ago, there was no general law handbook available written in a suitable manner for the non-lawyer. ▶

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► There is a supplement to the present work for Australian Capital Territory residents, and now similar works published by various community legal organisations in other States. Edited by Lynne Spender, the fourth edition of *The law handbook* was published in 1991 by Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, 13A Meagher Street, Chippendale, NSW 2008. It costs \$49.95 plus \$5.00 postage. In due course purchasers will also receive a free copy of a magazine-style supplement to help keep you up to date between editions. (ISBN 0 947205 28 4)

Stimulating memories

Reminiscences can be valuable as historical evidence, especially if corroborated, and provide a human scale to monumental events. Reminiscences of relatives can provide an insight into ourselves. And, as Bob Price well knows, reminiscing can be valuable therapy for those whose short-term memory is impaired. So his *Family memories: a guide to reminiscing* has a valuable dual purpose: stimulating subjects to recall incidents in their lives, and guiding the family chronicler to record and organise these memories, to 'allow your family tree to bear fruit.' Divided into manageable chunks—growing up, early adulthood, major life influences, personal thoughts and feelings and a section for those who have adopted Australia as their home—the work is peppered with cues and stimuli. There are pictures to start memories rolling: a general store, school photographs, sitting on Santa's knee, images of the Depression and World War II. Anonymous photographs, for the most part, accompanied by equally unidentified quotations from some good examples of reminiscences, inspiring the thought, I guess, that you don't have to be famous or notorious to have valuable memories for your family and for yourself. Guaranteed to get the grey matter moving. A new edition of Bob Price's *Family memories* was published in 1992 by the State Library of New South Wales Press. It costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 7305 8902 1)

Coping with loss

Learning to grieve is a workbook for teachers who are tackling the concepts of death and loss with high school students. It provides a framework for learning with what one professor of psychiatry has described as 'an innovative creative approach'. The program covers accidental death, funeral and burial practices, euthanasia, normal grief reactions, the

Dying Person's Bill of Rights and a wide range of related issues. There are worksheets (which can be copied for class use), and a short list of further resources. Geoffrey T Glasscock and Louise Rowling's *Learning to grieve* was published in 1992 by Millennium Books and costs \$24.95. (ISBN 0 85574 896 6)

Scholarly stuff

Quietly, but I suspect furiously beaver away around Australia, are a phalanx of scholars of Australian literature. In their sights is a series of scholarly, critical editions of major Australian literary works. Under the banner of 'The Academy Editions of Australian Literature', the project was initiated in 1991 by the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and its office is based at the Australian Defence Force Academy, where the general editor, Paul Eggert, lectures. The editors of individual texts are already working on *His natural life*, *Robbery under arms*, *An Australian girl* (Catherine Martin), Harpur and John Shaw Neilson's poems and Henry Kingsley's *Geoffrey Hamlyn*. Selection of titles for the program is based on pragmatic and philosophical principles: among others, the significance of the text, its popularity, availability of copyright clearance, likely speed of completion and the ability to find an editor. As the first issue of *Academy Editions newsletter* (July 1992; ISSN 1038-6661) points out, even establishing the authentic text is problematic for some of the works, and will take all of the nous of the editors and the electronic whizzbangery (such as CASE—Computer Aided Scholarly Editing) they can lay their hands on to resolve, or not resolve as the case may be. Computer collation of variant texts of the same work may relieve editors of some of the drudgery, but they will need all their skills and experience to get closest to the authors' intentions. Librarians and other enthusiasts of Australian literature will look forward with eagerness to the eventual publication, probably in 1994, by the University of Queensland Press, of the first fruits of this ambitious project. Further information on the project and copies of *Academy Editions newsletter* can be obtained from the Academy Editions of Australian Literature Research Office, Department of English, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Social Sciences tamed

The new series of Australian reference works from ALIA Thorpe is off to a good start with Barbara Brady's

sterling efforts at covering the rather amorphous area of social sciences. In *Australian sourcebooks: social sciences* she brings a sensible framework to the Dewey 300s and cognate subjects, progressing from general reference sources through to the most specific nooks and crannies. This is an interesting contrast to the approach the late Henry Mayer and his collaborators used with their *ARGAP: a research guide to Australian politics and cognate subjects* which has hitherto been a mainstay, albeit a dated one, in this general subject area. Mayer hopped from reference to reference, like a frog on a lily-pad, so that his readers could share in the excitement of discovery, if they found what they were looking for. It was a confirmed browsers book. Brady's is disciplined, in a different way, and is more structured, but is still eminently browsable. An excellent author, title and subject index, with copious cross-references, ensures that you can quickly get to the heart of the matter to find the reference source you need, and Brady's succinct description of it. There are very strong sections on parliament, government and politics, as one would expect from an author who has laboured in that particular vineyard, and a solid chapter on law. Throughout there are many references to non-book formats, including online services and CD-ROM. Even if your library is not heavily into the social sciences, there is value enough in the generalia covered, and the ubiquitous subjects like statistics, to make this a worthwhile purchase. We look forward to further valuable contributions of this kind to the bibliography of Australian reference material, whilst marvelling at the dedication and perseverance of their compilers. Barbara Brady's *Australian sourcebooks: social sciences* was published by ALIA Thorpe and costs \$75.00. (ISBN 1 875 58901 5) ■

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