

The Source



David J Jones

Australia is now said to be the 'third largest repository of Dutch primary sources for Southeast Asian history outside the Netherlands and Indonesia.' Many of the materials concerned are of course in microform, and there has been little systematic effort to provide a detailed catalogue. This has inspired M. R. Fernando to prepare *A bibliography of Dutch-language primary sources concerning Southeast Asia from 1600 to 1940 in major Australian libraries*, which was published in 1991. Fernando excludes published materials, concentrating on archives and providing detailed lists of microfiche and microfilms of records from such key bodies as the Dutch East India Company. Most of the items described are at Monash University, the Australian National University or Griffith University, which hold the most substantial collections in this subject area. Fernando's 180-page bibliography was published in 1991 by the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 1991. (ISBN 0 7326 0237 8; ISSN 0816-5424)

Spotlight on our near neighbour

Attention turns to Indonesia in the latest in the series of Asian historical dictionaries published by Scarecrow. In his *Historical dictionary of Indonesia*, Robert Cribb, a University of Queensland specialist on Southeast Asian history, provides 660 pages of information on Indonesia's past and present, covering government and politics, religion, economics, cultures and geography. It is a mine of information: what systems of titles exist? What are major commodities and how have associated indus-

tries developed? What is the 'Floating Mass' policy? Is Indonesia a party to copyright conventions? How could you describe relations between Australia and Indonesia in the past? There are useful sections on Indonesian acronyms and abbreviations, a chronology from 1.9 million years ago to 1990 and several maps. Appendixes list leading officials during the colonial period, relevant Dutch ministers, early rulers, leaders and cabinets since independence, and election results. There is also a bibliography of over a thousand items. This is an excellent specimen from this very useful series, and will be a valuable addition to major Australian reference collections. *Historical dictionary of Indonesia* by Robert Cribb was published in 1992 by Scarecrow. It is printed on 'acid-free' paper and costs US\$72.50. (ISBN 0 8108 2542 2)

The ALPS are growing

Australian libraries are publishers of significance, and around thirty are now members of ALPS (Australian Library Publishers Society)—its net is spreading, as the University of the South Pacific has recently joined. The third edition of the ALPS joint catalogue lists a heap, if not a mountain, of publications ranging from the folklore of eating and drinking to heavyweight professional reading on the Distributed National Collection. Listing is selective, but there are nonetheless around three hundred entries. Each entry gives full ordering information, and some have descriptive annotations. New items are flagged, a useful feature for careworn selectors and reviewers. There are subject, title and author indexes, together with some order forms.

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Copies of the ALPS catalogue are available free of charge from its convener, Ray Choate, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, GPO Box 498, Adelaide, SA 5001, phone (08) 228 5370 fax (08) 232 3689.

A transport of delight

Transportation to Sydney used to be a punishment. Transportation around Sydney is still an ordeal, as John Black and Peter Rimmer know only too well. They are the authors of *Sydney's transport: contemporary issues 1988-1992*, the first in a new series of background papers published by the New South Wales Parliamentary Library in the interests of a better informed legislature, and a better informed public. In this series subject experts will tackle some of the burning issues within the State sphere, following a strong tradition of backgrounders from this reputable publisher. Appropriately launched on air by the presenter of a drive-time radio programme, the work gives an authoritative overview of the problems and rounds off with vision of the future. Ecologically sustainable development, traffic calming, integrated land-use and transport, and telecommuting all get a guernsey in this succinct and accessible study. John Black and Peter Rimmer's *Sydney's transport: contemporary issues 1988-1992* was published in 1992 by the New South Wales Parliamentary Library. Copies are available from the Library at \$20.00. (ISSN 0 8 1 7 - 3 7 9 6 ; ISBN 0 7240 9553 5)

Steam-driven lettering

For those who want to get to grips with Gothic Blackletter rather than CourierPC, and fancy trying ▶

► their hand at Circulus with a ruler and compass (or French curves) rather than manoeuvring a mouse, there's the second edition of Raymond Sims' *New lettering for signs, projects, posters and displays*. Sims gives hints for good lettering, talks a bit about equipment, colour combinations, lettering styles, using dry transfer lettering, fixing signs and a lot more, in a well-illustrated, easy to follow manner. This will be useful for school students, hobbyists and producers of home-made signs and designs who want to improve their output, manually, that is. Raymond Sims' *New lettering for signs, projects, posters and displays* was published in 1992 by Millennium Books and costs \$7.95. (ISBN 0 85574 919 9)

Oz studies around the world

About seventy years ago, an Australian librarian visiting the United States was shown a couple of presses of books and was told that this was probably the most extensive collection of Australiana in the country. He was mortified. Today he would be gratified to see around the world respectable collections of works on Australia and better still, major centres of Australian studies in countries as widespread as China, Italy, Indonesia, the UK and the USA. There are dozens of institutions too which offer courses in Australian studies as part of their history and literature programmes. There are associations and journals devoted to Australian studies—like *Yacker newsletter* from the University of Texas at Austin. And now there is a directory of this growing field, from our own National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. Its *International directory of Australian studies*, running to over 100 pages, includes entries for centres in Australia as well as those overseas, and also lists the healthy number of institutions which are planning to introduce courses in Australian studies. This is a valuable guide for academics and researchers. *International directory of Australian studies* was published in 1992 by the National Centre for Australian studies at Monash University

in association with the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges. It costs \$20.00. (ISBN 0 7326 0420 6)

A slice of ham

An enterprising Australian amateur radio enthusiast is responsible for a remarkable new publication, which neatly fills a gap in the literature. *Amateur radio technical abstracts*, the first volume of which was published in 1992, indexes and abstracts a dozen British, American, Canadian, South African and Australian periodicals for the radio 'ham'. In a solidly bound volume, printed on 'acid-free' paper, there are about 1,000 entries, arranged in 16 chapters with further subdivisions. There is an author index and a very good subject index to the contents. Coverage ranges from purist amateur radio to hobbyist projects—including the sinister slave flash trigger and the knockerbox. The abstracts are concise, making good use of abbreviations (which are all explained in a glossary). The editor, Graham Thornton, alias VK3IY, has made a very good fist of this, and, magazine publishers willing, will extend the range of periodicals covered in future volumes. It is promising to see that he is thinking long term—there will be quinquennial cumulative indexes. For Australian libraries it will be useful to have his coverage of *Electronics Australia* and *Amateur radio*, along with the overseas titles. *Amateur radio technical abstracts*, volume 1, 1991, was published in 1992 by Thornton Publishing, PO Box 298, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic 3005. Postage paid it costs \$32.00 for Victorians, \$32.65 for the rest of Australia, US\$24.75 for Asia and the Pacific, US\$25.00 for the USA and Canada, and 13.50 pounds sterling for Europe and Africa. (ISSN 1036-3025). (As noted, printed on 'acid-free paper'). ■

Items for review in The Source should be sent to:

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