



David J Jones

It was in 1841 that *A Mother's offering to her children* found its way into well-heeled Christmas stockings and entered the record book as the first children's book published in Australia, the start of what is now a sizable and healthy literature. It is estimated that there are now over 1000 Australian authors and illustrators working in children's literature, together with an army of publishers, booksellers, editors, printers and associated occupations.

Joining the ranks of the several reference works in this field is the very useful *A Guide to Australian children's literature*, in which Jeffrey Prentice and Bronwen Bennett gather and bring up to date a wide range of facts, figures and references. They kick off with a chronology of Australian children's literature (which they interpret 'in its widest sense as covering everything from fiction and picture books to comics and children's annuals').

A succession of sections lists and describes special collections in children's literature, winners of children's book awards (plus information and contact addresses for awards which are still in existence), foreign language editions (including Norman Lindsay's *Maho no pudeingo*) and provides details of a selection of publishers of children's books in Australia. Some new and secondhand children's booksellers, relevant organisations, journals, and tertiary courses are also described.

There is an extensive bibliography, tackling the subject in general and also listing books, articles and videos on individual authors and illustrators. In one handy volume you are presented with a vast amount of well-organised and clearly-presented information from a wide variety of sources: a marvellous time-saver, but also fascinating to dip into. *A Guide to Australian children's literature* by Jeffrey Prentice and Bronwen Bennett, was published in

1992 by Thorpe and costs \$39.50. (ISBN 1 875589 11 2)

For Aboriginal health workers

Tracking down training resources for Aboriginal health workers is no simple matter. Many materials are not produced by mainstream publishers, and bibliographical control is patchy. Recognising the need for some kind of guide to scattered resources, Anne Batt, recipient of the 1991 Anne Harrison Award, has compiled *Aboriginal health workers: a guide to resources for education and training*. Fact cards from the Aboriginal Health Program, posters on healthy tucker, videos on eye care and healing plants—the range is fairly wide. Order forms are provided for some materials, and addresses and phone numbers are given for suppliers and relevant resource centres.

Copies of Anne Batt's *Aboriginal health workers* are available from her at 30 Colombo Street, Victoria Park, WA 6100. The publication is free to Aboriginal organisations or to bodies involved in the education of Aboriginal health workers, and \$12.00 per copy for others. Cheques should be made payable to the Medical Librarians Group Trust. (ISBN 0 646 09486 6)

Western lives and times

If ancestors of your readers ever set foot in Western Australia, there may be some trace of them in the Batty Library, and there are some useful guides to source materials for genealogists in that institution. *Our military ancestors* (ISBN 0 7244 6944 3), for example, which Glenda Oakley compiled in 1991, is a thorough guide to the Batty's resources on Western Australian military personnel—'who they were, where they were, and what they did', from the earliest days of white settlement to Vietnam.

Alan Hunt knows a fair bit about lobbying: for 31 years... Now he is able to share some insights into the political process, together with a lot of dos and don'ts about 'making representations'.

Gillian O'Mara's *Convict records of Western Australia*, published by the Friends of Batty Library in 1990, is another invaluable guide, full of practical tips on threading your way through the labyrinth of printed, manuscript and microfilm records in search of convict ancestry. There are explanations of the terminology—what was an expirée, for example?—clear and concise instructions, and a good index. Copies of *Convict records of Western Australia* (ISBN 0 646 02213 X) are still available at \$10.00.

To find out what else was happening, whilst your ancestor was enjoying a sea voyage to WA at Her Majesty's pleasure, or standing guard at Princess Royal Harbour, the Friends of Batty Library offer two sizeable chronologies of their state. *Date it! a Western Australian chronology to 1929* and *More dates!*, which covers 1930 to 1989, record the political and social, momentous and trivial events, together with the steadily increasing population, and the fluctuating record of gold production, year by year. These two useful chronologies cost \$10.00, and like the other Friends of Batty Library publications, are available from PO Box 216, Aberdeen Street, Northbridge, WA 6865.

Ephemera are here to stay

The variety of ephemeral material, and its usefulness to researchers of all kinds, is well-illustrated in a recent directory published by the State Library of New South Wales. In its *Directory of Australian ephemera collections*, which was compiled by Anne Robertson, it lists around a hundred institutions and individuals who collect 'non-book printed matter, principally on paper, designed in the main for short-term use'.

From small private collections of share certificates and menus, to larger institutions with much broader scope, ►

► the directory provides a useful way of assessing what resources are available. Information on Australian ammunition manufacturers (including ammunition samples), Masonic lodges, Australian grocery items, knitting patterns, souvenirs from Australian caves—print on it, and someone will collect it.

Browsing is the order of the day, as there is no index to this essentially preliminary attempt to gather information on ephemera collections. I'm sure the appearance of this slim directory will bring many more collectors and collections out of the woodwork for future editions. In the meantime, you can obtain a free copy of Anne Robertson's *Directory of Australian ephemera collections* from her at the State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, contact telephone (02) 230 1421, fax (02) 221 5261. ISBN 0 7305 8907 2

The book in Tasmania

It's over seventeen years since the publication of *Inside Tasmania's bookshops*, and the local branch of the National Book Council has now published a successor, which also usefully lists Tasmanian publishers and book groups. This nicely-designed 74-page guide gives names and addresses, contact numbers, opening hours, size of the shop, availability of discounts and subject specialization.

Tasmania can also boast some very enterprising publishers, some specialising in limited or fine editions, or as one describes its forte: 'low quantity, high quality literary works'. Under book groups are clubs and discussion groups, writers' organisations and literary societies. *A directory of bookshops, publishers and book groups in Tasmania*

was published in 1992 by the Tasmanian Branch of the National Book Council, PO Box 138, Launceston, Tas 7250. It costs \$10.00 plus \$2.50 postage. (ISBN 0 9596628 2 0)

The ins and outs of lobbying

Alan Hunt knows a fair bit about lobbying: for 31 years he was on the receiving end as a Victorian Member of Parliament—including 11 years as a minister, serving in a variety of portfolios. Now he is able to share some insights into the political process, together with a lot of dos and don'ts about 'making representations'.

In *Working with Government: a handbook*, Hunt attempts to put government into context, explaining how policy is determined, suggesting how the bureaucracy can be sounded out, describing how to manage a deputation to a minister and casting some light on the legislative process. He describes some common mistakes, including attacking the minister, or a public servant, and trying to get results by wining and dining officials. This 70-page work is lucidly written, and liberally sprinkled with examples from Hunt's own extensive experience.

Working with government by Alan Hunt was published in 1992 by Alan Hunt and Associates, 20 Nelson Street, Morningson, Vic 3931. Copies are available from James Bennett Library Services at \$22.50. (ISBN 0 646 12197 9)

Environmental facts and figures

A mass of data on the environment is available from statistical and other bodies, but much of it is difficult for the non-specialist to gather and inter-

pret. In an effort to make statistical information about the environment more accessible, the United Nations Statistical Office developed a framework which national statistical authorities were encouraged to use and adapt.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, for example, has produced *Australia's environment: issues and facts*. In chapters dealing with flora and fauna, atmosphere, water, land and soil and human settlements, we are presented with statistics and commentary from a variety of sources which give a picture of the state of health of our environment, and various measures of our impact on it. Greenhouse gases, toxic wastes, urban runoff, variability of rainfall, industrial water use, soil degradation, road and rail networks, historic places, recycling—the range of topics is very wide, and the range of sources equally diverse. There is no index to this 354-page compilation, but there is a glossary and a list of acronyms [sic].

This is a valuable first venture by ABS into this wide and multidisciplinary field, an accessible and stimulating sourcebook for researchers, politicians and other environmentally aware citizens. *Australia's environment: issues and facts* was published in 1992 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and costs \$35.00. (ISBN 0 642 16043 0; ABS Cat. No. 4140.0) ■

Items for review in The Source should be sent to:

David J Jones
31 Ward Street
Willoughby
NSW 2068


GoPAC™

**THE ONLY MICROSOFT
APPROVED OPAC FOR
WINDOWS™**

for your free
DATATREK GoPAC Sampler

Ring Toll Free
008 025 012

DATA TREK (AUSTRALASIA)
PTY LTD.
15/3 LANCASTER ST.
INGLEBURN NSW 2565
FAX: (02) 829 3747



NEW



- Chivers Hardcover
- Camden Softcover

**THE LOWEST PRICED LARGE PRINT
AVAILABLE TODAY**

on Standing Order
from

**SOUTHERN
SCENE** PTY. LTD.



5/1 Penshurst Road, Narwee 2209
Tel: (02) 534 1977 Fax: (02) 534 1972