

# The sweeping span of English literature

A new Cambridge guide brings it all within a single volume

The compiler and editor, Ian Ousby, and more than a hundred contributors have surveyed their vast field magnificently in the new Cambridge *Guide to literature in English*, covering their material wherever it has been written in the English language 'by all the various English-speaking cultures throughout the world', from 1000 AD to the present day.

The work is organised by author and by major work, and also by some other unexpected categories: literary groups, critical schools, literary genres, poetic forms, critical concepts, rhetorical terms, theatres and theatre

companies, and literary magazines. There are essays on a wide variety of topics from *alienation* to *wit*, including pieces on the English language, dictionaries, feminist criticism, metre, rhyme and so on.

Australia is well represented, and even has the last word, with Fay Zwicky's entry. The Guide is generous with its entries to earlier Australian writers like Boldrewood, Marcus Clarke, Lawson, Banjo Paterson and Dennis. It is also well up to date with our current authors like Thea Astley, Murray Bail, Carey, Keneally, Malouf, Moorhouse, and Winton.

And if it deals so thoroughly with the antipodes and the other colonies (there are also very many entries for North America and the African countries), consider how well it covers the British scene, with elegant and informative summaries of much that is vital to our heritage or exciting in our times.

At \$59.95 for 1055 pages *The Cambridge guide to literature in English* (ISBN 0 521 440866) has to be highly recommended. It gives excellent value for money now, and it is the kind of book that will gain in value and enjoyment with familiarity and use. ■

## The 1994 master tax guide

ALIA's Financial Services Manager, Helen MacMillan, thinks that it's great

CCH Australia has produced another indispensable tome for the administrator.

The *1994 Australian master tax guide* is slightly larger but also slightly slimmer than the paperback edition of Vikram Seth's *A suitable boy*. It is not, however, as entertaining as Vikram Seth. The paper is thinner so it boasts 1832 pages against *A suitable boy's* 1474.

CCH's tax editors have brought together a lot of information to throw light on a very complex Tax Act.

The *Guide* outlines the rules of everyday business and personal income tax in a way which is both practical and easy to follow. It gives some examples of how the rules are put into practice. It is up to date at 31 December 1993.

CCH claims the *Guide* is Australia's leading tax handbook, and there is no reason to dispute this. It covers taxation law comprehensively, including sales tax, fringe benefits tax, the training guarantee charge, the

superannuation guarantee charge and tax planning.

For the less expert the first impression is daunting. However, the book is well thought through and easy to follow, from the first pages which outline the changes to tax law since the last edition (with references to the body text for more detail) to the 83-page index at the back of the book.

In between the *Guide* is written in what CCH says is plain English, which really does seem to minimise jargon.

The book gives references to cases mentioned in the text, and to specific legislative tax provisions, to other legislation, and to tax rulings and determinations. It also includes a Stop Press containing any tax developments after 31 December (including changes announced on 12 January 1994, affecting capital gains tax).

CCH says it has sold more than 1 million copies since the first edition of the *Guide* more



than 20 years ago, making it the nation's most popular tax handbook. It is no doubt an invaluable annual investment for the tax professional, and for the non-professional user it provides a comprehensive and relatively easy map through the tax maze.

CCH Tax Editors. *1994 Australian master tax guide*. A guide to help corporate and private taxpayers prepare their income tax returns for the 1993/94 income tax year. CCH Australia Ltd, Sydney, 1993. 1832pp. A\$ 54.00 ISBN 1 86264 558 2. ISSN 0810-5596. (Review copy supplied by CCH Australia Ltd). ■