

A lot of children's bed-time reading...

State Library of Victoria acquires Ken Pound collection for posterity

The Ken Pound Collection of Australian children's books is to be acquired by the State Library of Victoria.

Funding for the acquisition and cataloguing of the collection was made earlier this year by the Victorian Government.

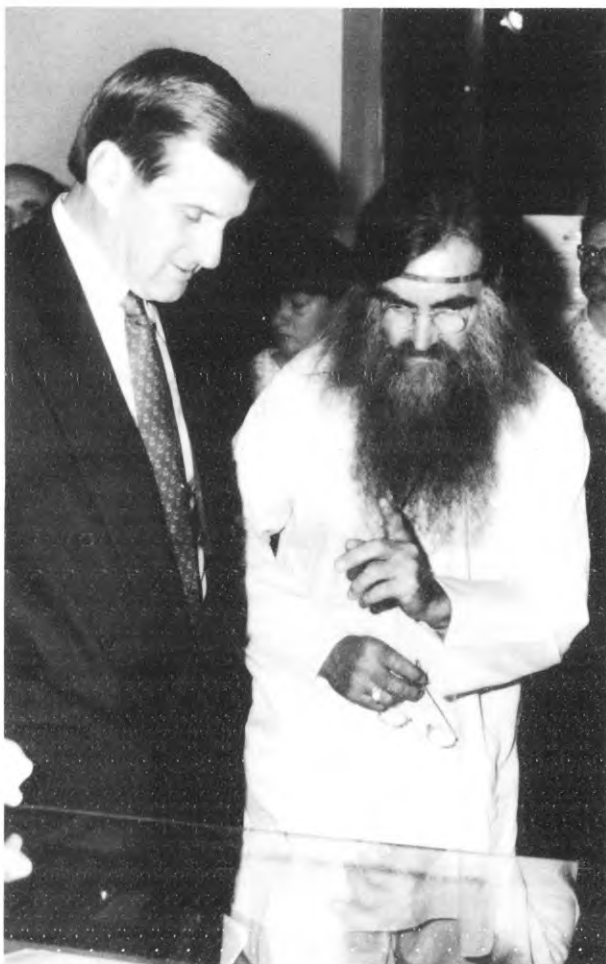
Ken Pound began collecting Australian children's books over 25 years ago, at a time when very

few private collectors were interested in children's books.

In his search for literary gems he combed market stalls, deceased estate auctions, garage sales, bookshops, junk shops and any other place that might have old books. The result — a collection of 35 000 volumes.

His aim of keeping every volume in near mint condition is a particular challenge with children's books, whose original owners usually give them a very hard life. Whenever a superior copy was found, Ken replaced the first copy, usually trading it for something else he did not hold.

Many thousands of the books in the Ken Pound collection are not held in public institutional libraries and range from rare works by well-known authors and illustrators to ephemeral picture books that have not survived the ravages of time and normal wear and tear.



When Ken Pound makes a point, even Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett listens.

The collection emphasises the many variant impressions and editions of the Australian classics. There may be up to 40 editions of a single work reflecting changes in public taste, book production standards and social attitudes over the years.

Libraries have not generally collected Australian children's material at this depth until now.

The acquisition will create the foremost collection of Australian children's books in the country. It complements the library's existing holdings and when catalogued into the national bibliographic database will be accessible not only to the people of Victoria, but to researchers throughout the country. ■

Get on line

If you're looking for another avenue to help you attract a wider audience for your professional development activities — read on!

The Queensland Department of Education has invited ALIA to contribute details of professional activities to its CONF database.

The database will include information about upcoming conferences, seminars and workshops in the fields of education, management training and librarianship. The database has a wide audience — Queensland schools, school support centres, regional offices, other government departments, universities and non-state schools.

If you're interested, forward flyers to: CONF Database, Qld Department of Education Library, PO Box 33, Brisbane Qld 4002, Ph (07) 237 0604, fax (07) 237 1108. For any questions on this new service, please contact the CONF Database staff. ■

Cart o'graphics

The Library and Information Service of WA has a wide selection of duplicate and discarded maps. For a copy of the list contact Sue Ryan, Map Collections, Library and Information Service of WA, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000. Telephone (09) 427 3201, or fax (09) 427 3256. ■

\$1000 grants for copyright projects

In a move to highlight the copyright interests of authors and publishers in Australia, the Copyright Agency is offering grants worth a minimum \$1000 each for the establishment, maintenance of or participation in projects germane to the subject.

Individuals, groups, groups, companies and other organisations can apply for the grants, which

must focus on copyright-related areas such as research, cultural applications and community or specific-audience understanding. Applications for the grants, being administered by the National Book Council, close on 30 September. If you're interested, call the Council's executive director on telephone (03) 663 8655, fax (03) 663 8658. ■